



character

is higher than

intellect...

a great soul

will be strong

to live,

as well

as think.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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{SALUTE}

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All instructors of undergraduate courses are eligible for nomination.

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Application Deadline is February 4th, 2008 at 5pm

Applications are available at all Infolink Desks, Faculty Offices, International House, 2-900 SUB and online at:

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For more information contact
492-4241 or ea@su.ualberta.ca



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Art's Birthday

Featuring *The Wet Secrets*, *Illfit Outfit*,
David McCallum, and Shawn Pinchbeck
17 January at 7pm
ARTery (99535 Jasper Avenue)

Only at events like this one can you have your metaphorical cake and then eat some actual cake too. While one wouldn't normally think *The Wet Secrets* would go well with icing, the Film And Video Arts Society of Alberta (FAVA) are ready to prove you wrong and are throwing themselves a 25th birthday party that features several musical performances while you enjoy a delicious bunt (or other assorted cake-like confectionary).

Necro

With *Psycho Realm*, *Danny Diablo*,
Boondox, and *Rivera Regime*
Friday, 18 January at 8pm
Starlite Room, 18+

Inventor of the mortality-influenced subgenre death rap, Necro—born Ron Braunstein—is well known throughout the world of hip-hop for his extremely violent and explicit lyrics, as well as his do-it-yourself mentality when it comes to promotion.

Holding the joint honour of owning all the masters to all his albums and creating the first hip-hop song about human body disposal, Necro has released such classics of his genre as *I Need Drugs* and *The Sexorcist*, and is currently touring to support his latest release, *Death Rap*, which leaves the preoccupation with sex in the past and thankfully returns to simple gore and dismemberment.

Gob

With *This is a Standoff* and *Ending Alexander*
Saturday, 19 January at 8pm
Jet Nightclub

Time's been a mixed blessing to Canadian pop-punkers Gob. Gone are that genre's carefree days of yore, where a fun little riff and a video about playing soccer against zombies to rescue a babe could make you a star on MuchMusic. Since then, they've had to deal with a decline in radioplay and losing a band member to Avril Lavigne—and I'm sure they've been through Edmonton before, but probably somewhere a little more prestigious than Jet Nightclub.

However, their 2003 album *Foot in Mouth Disease* did particularly well in Japan, and spurred on by the success, the boys are touring in support of their latest album, *Muertos Vivos*. If they're lucky, maybe some ancient fans from their heyday will rise from the ground and rock out, zombie style, giving the band a chance to prove both their rock *and* soccer skills once more.

The Canoe Theatre Festival

Runs 22–26 January
3rd Space (11516 103 Street) and the
Timms Centre (87 Ave & 112 Street)

Part of the Workshop West 07/08 True Grit season, the Canoe Theatre Festival features five separate acclaimed productions from across Canada. The variety of shows includes *Water*, which looks at the depleting global water supply; *Fish Eyes*, a coming-of-age story featuring Bollywood dancing; *The Cloister*, a look into the life of 13th-century nun Hildegard von Bingen; *The Misfit*, another Bollywood-style story about a woman running away to India; and finally, a solo performance of *Hamlet*, with one actor playing all 17 roles in the play.

JOHN KMECH & PAUL BLINOV
Dreadlacked and sideburned



Elephants heading for the Hills

Local act Hills Like White Elephants deliver their first album—which might also be their last

musicpreview

Hills Like White Elephants CD Release Party

With Doug Hoyer and Arsh Khaira
Saturday, 19 January at 7pm
McDougal United Church

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hills Like White Elephants have been a band since 2004, and those four years have been marked by some impressive highlights: a cross-Canada tour with rising stars The Acorn and playing Calgary's Sled Island Festival. But now, on the eve of their first album's release, the atmospheric, orchestral band might be making a trip to the elephant graveyard.

"All of us are full-time students, and we haven't practiced in three months; we played a show back in September, and then we took a bunch of time off," sighs Chris Blackmore, lead guitarist and vocalist for the band. "[It's] just they way everybody's lives are looking, particularly me: I'll be going on a trip in May to India for about a month, and then I think I'll be moving to Korea next year."

That said, their first and possibly only full-length album, *Himalaya*, isn't a self-defeated goodbye; the album was a much more focused and prepared effort than their first self-titled release.

"I think this album is what we wanted out of [the band], and it's probably the best we'll do

with this kind of arrangement," he says. "Our EP was recorded about a month after we wrote those songs. Some of them were pretty rusty; we'd just finished learning to play them before we went in [to the studio]."

On that first EP, Hills Like White Elephants consisted of four primary members—Blackmore, guitarist Stefan Dehod, drummer Mike Kropinski, and bassist Jim Cumming. But in the live setting, the band now swells 5–8 performers.

"I think this album is what we wanted out of [the band], and it's probably the best we'll do with this kind of arrangement."

CHRIS BLACKMORE

HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS VOCALIST/GUITARIST

Their MySpace page now lists seven regular members and another sub-group of eight more. According to Blackmore, it's this satellite ring of sometimes-bandmates that really make the band's sound diverse, and on *Himalaya*, had more input than ever.

"It's actually kind of hard to say who's in the band," Blackmore jokingly admits. "But apart from some skeletons of songs we had, a ton of things changed [in recording *Himalaya*]; [violinist] Janet Chung had a huge part; Eric Cheng had a huge part in producing and arranging. I don't read music, and apart from

some very general ideas, we let them have free reign.

"I think that the four of us contribute the basic part of the song, and the rest of the band makes it actually interesting," he laughs. "That's how we work."

Himalaya was recorded in a much more relaxed setting, working in producer Eric Cheng's studio, where time wasn't an issue. Additionally, they had the added bonus of coming off a Canada-wide tour, where they could really work the kinks out of their new songs, making recording so much easier.

"This time around, we got in the tour and a bunch of shows, so we played the songs almost to death—hundreds of times," Blackmore says.

"So everything was very tight. [It was] easy to get good takes. In terms of recording atmosphere, it was the same kind of schtick: we've recorded with Eric before, and it was a daytime suite studio. So it wasn't particularly intimidating, and we weren't paying by the hour or anything. It was pretty relaxed.

"We recorded piecemeal [bits]," he continues. "I think we started sometime in late May, and one or two of us would drop in when we had spare moments over the summer. One or two of us would record some tracks."

Even if *Himalaya* ends up being his band's goodbye, it's one that that Blackmore can be proud to leave behind as the band goes over the hills and far away.

"The way I look at it, I'd rather really concentrate on something and make something I can look back on, and not keep it rolling until it drags its foot into the grave. Just go out on a good point."

PLEASE SEE CD REVIEW • PAGE 15

Prince's falsetto hits sexy notes



SARAH
STEAD

A&E
Commentary

"Shortly after telling someone that I'm a faithful Prince listener, I'll be asked for the reasons behind my fandom. It's simple: his music makes me want to dance. My hammer, anvil, and stirrup make sweet, passionate inner-ear love when his falsetto vocals hit my ear drum."

Before I begin, I have a confession to make: I'm a huge Prince fan. No, I'm not talking about anyone in the royal family—I'm talking about the guy who played the Superbowl half-time show last year; the guy who notoriously changed his name to a symbol, the guy who was in *Purple Rain*, the guy who Dave Chapelle says could kick your ass at basketball. *That* Prince.

Whenever the topic of favorite bands or artists comes up, I'm regularly criticized for openly liking Prince. But when I talk to people about why they don't like his music, more often than not the person has never listened to anything by Prince, and their reasoning for disliking him is "I heard the movie *Purple Rain* sucked" or "He wears frilly shirts and purple velvet and dances like a fruit."

Now, while this may be true, the problem is that they have absolutely nothing to do with his music.

In a conversation about music criticism, it follows that the object of criticism should be the music, not the person or people creating it. People become so clouded by the personal antics of celebrity

musicians that we forget what they do in the first place.

Shortly after telling someone that I'm a faithful Prince listener, I'll be asked for the reasons behind my fandom. It's simple: his music makes me want to dance. My hammer, anvil, and stirrup make sweet, passionate inner-ear love when his falsetto vocals hit my ear drum. He's a proficient and talented guitarist. His lyrics are naughty and fun to sing in the shower or into a hairbrush as I get ready in the morning.

So naughty, in fact, that his track "Darling Nikki" off the *Purple Rain* soundtrack is one of the reasons Tipper Gore and the "Washington Wives" started the Parental Music Resource Center and why some CDs now have explicit lyric stickers on them. His music opened important debates on musical censorship and freedom of expression—all because he sang about masturbation and sex.

Another poor reason to not listen to an artist is because they've become too popular. In a recent conversation with a co-worker, we debated whether or not Feist had sold out by allowing "1, 2, 3, 4" to appear in an iPod commercial. I say no way; it's

sad when success is solely equated with selling out, especially because her album *The Reminder* is fantastic. It's about time Feist started receiving more attention, and her rising popularity shouldn't change the way fans relate to her music. We need to be supporting flourishing artists, especially when they're homegrown like Feist, who grew up in Calgary.

Yes, she probably got a decent paycheck out of the exchange, but what's wrong with that? Musicians need to make money too, and with the amount of illegal downloading that goes on, it's becoming increasingly difficult for artists to be paid fairly for the music they're creating.

Liking or disliking any band or artist should be based on whether or not you like their music. I like Feist because I enjoy her songs and think her voice is incredible, and my love of Prince has nothing to do with his velvet suits, alleged basketball skills, or personal life—it has everything to do with the way his music makes me feel.

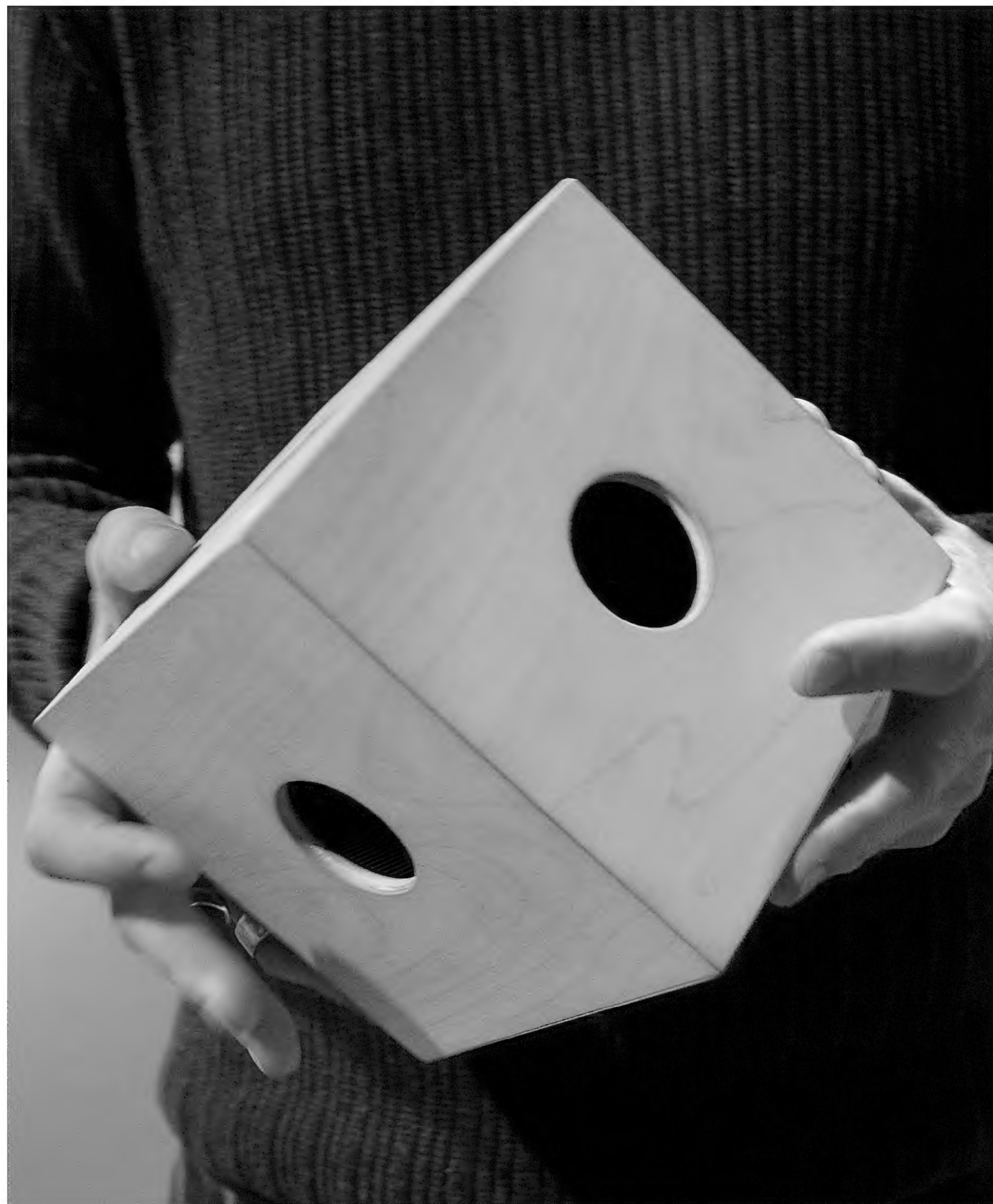
If you hear a song and it makes you want to bust a move, smile, tap your foot, or sing, what other justification do you need?



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ANDREW RURAK

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In the name of the suck

Uwe Boll's latest is an exercise in how not to make a fantasy movie believable

filmreview

In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale

Now Playing

Directed by Uwe Boll

Starring Jason Statham, John Rhys-Davies, Burt Reynolds, and Ray Liotta

JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Going into a Uwe Boll film is a little like going into a Chinese buffet after 9pm; you know it's going to be bad, but it's somewhat of a guilty pleasure in seeing whether or not it's palatable and enjoyable or just a hideously cold and greasy mess. Boll has almost as much fame now for his off-camera antics of attempting to box critics and furiously defending his productions as he does for being the most famously derided director of the 21st century.

His latest boondoggle is the exhaustingly titled *In The Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*, predictably another video game adaptation (this time of *Dungeon Siege*) that, like Boll's previous films, passes directly into so-bad-it's-good territory.

It's generally not a hopeful sign when the heroic protagonist of your film is named Farmer. But that's exactly who Jason Statham plays, a simple man who alternates cultivating turnips with practicing his sword-fighting, gravity-defying, and troll-decimating skills. Apparently they don't make root-vegetable farmers like they use to.

No sooner do his beautiful, exposition-delivering wife Solana (Claire Forlani) and mop-headed

ragamuffin son go into town than an army of rubber-suited Cavity Creep-like Krugs attack. Led by the evil mage Gallian (a brutally miscast Ray Liotta), they kill Farmer's son and take his wife hostage. He thus sets off on a quest for vengeance and never-ending broadsword theatrics with his sidekicks Ron Perlman and a huskier Legolas lookalike.

Meanwhile, the King (Burt Reynolds) tries to fend off both Gallian's forces and his conniving, wildly gesticulating nephew (Matthew Lillard), who may have some nefarious, predictable ideas in the works. There's also some vine-hanging wood elves led by Kristanna Loken to throw in just for fun.

**Ultimately though,
the blame for this
must lie squarely with
Boll, who still shows
no understanding
of cinematography,
editing, or generally
what makes a decent
film.**

That's just how life is in the land of Ehb, a mystical place where there can never be too many scenes ripped from *The Lord of the Rings*. Boll should almost be forced to pay Peter Jackson and the Tolkien estate royalties with the number of set, plot, and character ideas he lifts. He even somehow convinced John Rhys-Davies, who played Gimli, to take on the roll of the gruff, hero-guiding

wizard and deliver lines like "The King has a special interest in this dirt lover."

Boll has been known for his ability to convince star actors into performing in his debacles while robbing them of their dignity, and *Dungeon Siege* is no different, with plenty of big names spouting hilariously ridiculous dialogue. Statham makes as bland of a leading man as is possible, while Burt Reynolds, who looks like he's not sure why he's in the film, spends most of the movie lying in bed, stating absurd credos like "Wisdom is our hammer. Prudence is our nail." Meanwhile, there's only so much of Lillard's grotesque mugging that one can withstand in a two-hour span.

Casting Ray Liotta as a sneering, power-hungry wizard is like casting Joe Pesci as a rugged, ax-wielding dwarf. But Liotta takes the Saruman role and turns him into a flamboyant, painfully overacting stage magician. It's worth-keeping in mind that the man starred in *Goodfellas* and has been nominated for Golden Globes and Emmys when he says things like "How do you like my Krug?" and attacks his enemies with CGI hardcover books.

Ultimately though, the blame for this must lie squarely with Boll, who still shows no understanding of cinematography, editing, or generally what makes a decent film. This doesn't mean that the film isn't enjoyable; however unintentional it is, *Dungeon Siege* is still campy enough to be amusing, and would definitely warrant a rental if you're in the mood for a laugh. If you've seen Boll's movies before, you know what to expect. Whether that's good or bad really depends on you.

Law Show '08: more magical attorneys

The Gateway offers the Law students a helpful list of new acts, to keep their variety show in touch with what today's student body wants to see



JONN
KMECH

A&E
Commentary

Every year, the Law students hold their annual variety show, where budding lawyers showcase their artistic talents in the performance arts and give all the profits to charity. Variety shows always provide a diverse mix of acts to entertain a crowd, and so I thought that this year I'd be helpful and email them a list of ideas that I thought might prove popular and help stir things up a bit.

For example, I would have Garbanzo, the whimsically zany ventriloquist dummy who holds you in contempt of court while quipping suggestively about the hand located up his backside. He could even have a spinning bowtie. As well, there could be Zoltar the Magnificent Divorce Attorney, who can instantly make your marriage, estate, and bank account disappear, and a comic hypnotist who makes you believe you've just gotten 25-to-life with no chance

of parole—unless you fall madly in love with the person seated beside you or, alternately, win the Kentucky Derby.

Not variable enough for you? I also suggested a felt puppet show that uses fuzzy caterpillars and scary dragons to teach children the joy and wonder of domestic property law.

There could be Zoltar the Magnificent Divorce Attorney, who can instantly make your marriage, estate, and bank account disappear, and a comic hypnotist who makes you believe you've just gotten 20-to-life with no chance of parole.

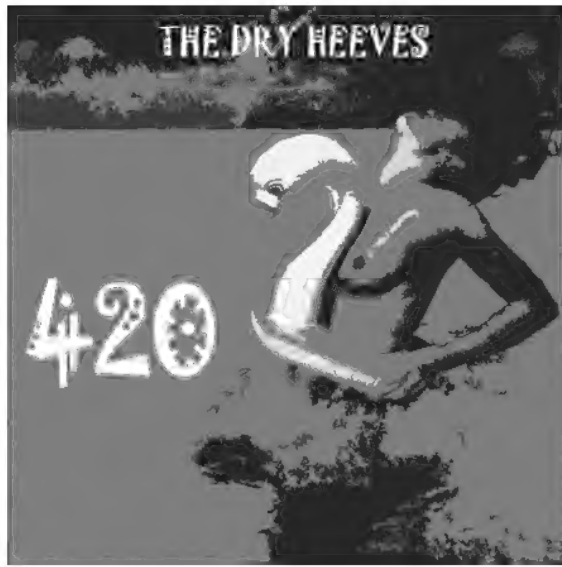
There would also be a juggler who juggles "Truth" bowling pins, as well as "Truth" chainsaws, allowing the audience to see if he can handle said truth. Should it prove that he cannot, the crowd yells out the

famous Nicholson declaration, followed by hearty laughter and enjoyment as paramedics storm the stage to aid the performer in this show of family fun.

There could be a dog talent show, where assault victims have their pomeranians jump through a gauntlet of flaming legal hoops, and the best dog's owner getting a settlement. I would also hold an animal jury duty circus, which features bears, monkeys, and lions so obedient they'll sit for weeks listening to prosecutors drone on about drunk-driving litigation, simply because their masters received a letter in the mail.

To make the law show more interactive with the audience, I would hold a three-legged lawyer race, which simulates being attached to your defense attorney for years at a time, and a greased attorney chase in Quad, where prospective clientele pursue and attempt to hire an attorney covered in butter and chicken grease who won't return their calls—but will bill for the time—while wild honkytonk music plays in the background.

I think changes would offer piles of variety to the Law Show, but for some reason, I haven't received a response.



albumreview

The Dry Heeves
420
Independent

BEN STANFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

According to "Laura B" from Sublevel 203, "The Dry Heeves take musical bits from cultures around the world and try to find ways to put them together in which no one else would."

This quote sums up The Dry Heeves perfectly, but not in the positive way it was intended; if ska, alt-rock, and grunge got together and had a massive drunken orgy, this album is the aborted love-child. Nothing is right on 420, starting with the two minute intro

"Oxycontin," which has bizarre grunge riffs and the sound of a creature dying while horking.

The intro to "Flying" has a German scientist talking about LSD, and the rest is random sound; when combined with the twisted acid-rock riffs it showcases, this song borders on poor-quality industrial, and all the other songs on this disc are equally random and bad. I hate to rag on Canadian bands, but The Dry Heeves simply have it wrong.

Their sound isn't even cohesive, and their attempts at political rock, like on "Oh Candahar," are irrelevant and clichéd. The song "Halifax" is supposed to be heavy metal, but this song is nothing more than a failed attempt to use a synthesizer and a mix master; once you've heard "Halifax-fux-fux-fux" in the opening ten seconds, you've heard the entirety of its word play. There's no Shakespeare to be found here.

The Dry Heeves also haven't learned that tracks that go longer than ten minutes are often just a massive waste of time. Their droning, 18-minute epic "Acid Casualty" is particularly bad: a drawn out discussion of their past album's "hits" with acid trip music in the background.

The Dry Heeves live up to their name, leaving you sweaty, empty, and irritable.



featuredalbum

Hills Like White Elephants

Himalaya
Champion City Records

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Himalaya is the follow-up album to Hills Like White Elephants' self-titled EP, and it plays like a dream sequence: some parts seem like familiar musical territory, while other bits are so obscure that they could only happen in the fiction of a surreal world.

The album starts softly, with a delicate guitar solo on "Lilliput Steps." From there, the song begins to swell as more instruments enter the fray. Hills Like White Elephants effectively lace horns and strings through several tracks, which results in a grand and orchestral

feel throughout the entire album. However, some songs, particularly the lengthy "A Sword in the Circle," get lost in the experimental nature of dabbling in so many sounds. "Gulls" is much more minimalist, and stands out as particularly weird.

Most of the band's experiments pay off: "Ghosts In Tow" is a fabulously variant track with several musical ideas expressed, but still unified and underlined by Chris Blackmore's ethereal voice. "Instrumental" further exhibits the orchestral quality of this

album, with drumming that picks up and drives the track.

"The Christening" is the paramount song on Himalaya. With both intensity and sensitivity, Hills Like White Elephants use the track to show their level of control over a wide range of musical abilities. The track boasts furious violins and driving guitar solos that build into a frenzy and then wind down in exhaustion.

Himalaya is an incredibly developed album; every song boasts several layers of sound that like to toy with the idea of becoming noisy but never forget about the subtleties. The album is unique, and while some tracks may take a little getting used to, it's consistently interesting and a solid performance from one of Edmonton's own.

Listen to excerpts from Himalaya on the Gateway editors' playlist at www.thegatewayonline.ca

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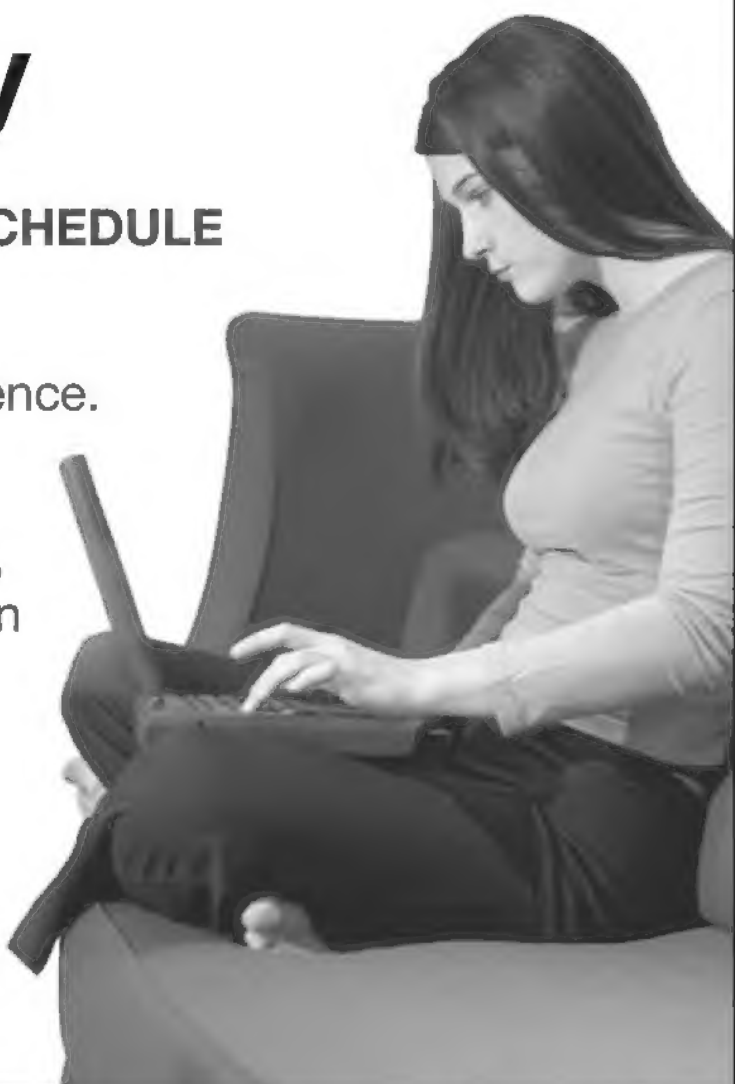
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To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a full-time continuing student with a GPA of at least 2.0, but can neither be a staffer of the Gateway (this includes volunteers), nor a member of the GSJS Board of Directors, nor a member of the GSJS Ombudsboard.

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Contest open to any full-time U of A student. Entry form pickup & drop-off at room #209 HUB Administration, Mon-Fri between 9 am-3 pm. Limit of two entry forms per person. Draw on January 25, 2008 at 3 pm sharp! Prizes must be accepted as awarded and cannot be traded for cash. Call 492-2241 for details or go to www.ualberta.ca/hubmall



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Word Play

Tales from a 24-hour playwriting competition

Written by David Johnston

Photos by Sam Brooks and Lauren Stieglitz

The 10 Days of Madness Playwriting Festival is an Edmonton-based and University Bookstore-sponsored theatrical event for writers, and is generally done behind the scenes. Considering the various events of the Festival, the 24-Hour Playwriting Competition stands out as the pick of the litter: it tests playwrights to their limits by putting them through sleep deprivation, writer's block, and caffeine overdoses while having them write a play with nothing but a single page of details and one day to do it—

that's 86 400 seconds, in case you were counting.

When I first signed up for the contest back in November with a group of my friends, I didn't give it a lot of thought. I'd written plays and stayed up all night playing video games in the past, so I figured I had the necessary skills and prepared myself by ignoring the advice of all my friends who had done it before. In fact, I was kind of excited for a chance to work shoulder-to-shoulder with real writers who will cut you if you get in their way. All of that excitement was dashed long before I finished.



11:30 A **D**inwoodie Lounge in SUB, I am greeted by festival director Melissa Hande and the only other early playwright. He's also named David; I wonder if he's my evil twin. I run downstairs to complete my page of details that I started writing 20 minutes ago on the bus. My play is best described as a two-act, backstage comedy / murder-mystery farce, with four actors playing eight characters. Sort of like if David Lynch directed *Noises Off*, but with more hats. In other words, I've chosen the most logistically complicated idea I could. Whee!

This causes Scott to yell 'Opa!' and wave his arms. Scott is beginning to scare me. We all jovially settle down to eat and compare lengths. Somehow, I've hit 33 pages. This is about twice what the average writer has. I reassure them that it's probably not very good. The other David tells me the concept for his play. It's about evil twins. Of course.

9:30 P I find myself losing focus, so I go to the sleeping area and power-listen to Christian punk rock for five minutes, accompanied by air guitar. When I return, Nick has come up with some design concepts that turn the play from a shoddy mess into a very pretty shoddy mess.

11:00 P The first act is finished—all 47 pages of it—but the last five pages are a kind of psychedelic acid-trip wherein I have one actress perform a seven-person scene by herself. I shrug and tell myself I'll get around to rewriting it (I won't). Another walk with Sean. I've written more than him, but percentage-wise, he's still kicking my ass.

12:00 A Halfway! I've written the final three pages, leaving a 40-minute gap for something we writers call "the plot." I seriously consider whether I can do without it.

1:00 A Nick has designed hats for my characters. I bow and worship him. He takes off shortly thereafter because, well, he has a brain. He is followed by our first departing playwright, amidst seething mumbles of "How the *hell* did she finish so damn fast?"

3:00 A I'm wondering if a joke about replacing the word *hypnotherapist* with *hippo therapist* is genius, or if it only seems funny because it's 3am. I check with Scott; the consensus is genius. Into the script!

5:00 A Killer fatigue has set in. I find myself losing consciousness midway through sentences, meaning I wake up and my script expresses timeless concepts like 'dexterity with the half-rock zombies.' To refocus, I construct a complex mathematical chart showing which actors are playing which characters. It doesn't make sense, but at least I'm not falling asleep.

7:00 A Against all odds, my first draft is completed: 76 pages, 18 000 words. Holy shit. I print it then go out into the hallway, spread it out in a big pile, and roll around in it. This is what's called the creative process.

8:00 A Only half of us are left when breakfast comes around. As a bleary-eyed collective, we gather at a table and munch on croissants while discussing the oeuvre of J Michael Straczynski. We're not talking about our plays. Too scary right now.

9:00 A While he slogs through mine, I read Sean's play. It's set in a bar. I wish I was in a bar right now. We give each other notes (which we will both ignore) and continue rewriting.

10:30 A Sean, Scott and the other David have left. I hate them so much. Jesse's still here. I hate him so much too. I decide I hate everyone and realize I have become a very old, bitter man.

11:30 A I'm only making *c o s m e t i c* changes: the play is finally done. I save it on my jump drive, hand it in to the admins, and then kill about four more trees by printing off yet another copy to take home with me. I yawn my good-byes and leave the lounge for good, 24 hours after I entered, having participated in one of the coolest theatre festivals in the city. SUB is just beginning to open up as I make my way out and home for some much-needed rest. I think I've earned it.

DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU OTHERWISE: the 24-Hour Playwriting Competition is a tough cookie to crack. It's exhausting, demanding, imposing, and a lot of other synonyms of 'tough.' And there's a certain inanity to the thing; though we work like mad, most of us won't win. I already know that I didn't, (though Melissa Hande is waiting until the week-end to announce the runners-up because she's mean) and I wasn't really thinking I'd take the gold going in. So what did I get out of it? Well, I finished a script (perfect Fringe fodder!), made some friends and learned quite a bit about *Babylon 5*. And, ultimately, I got more experience writing on a deadline, which I'm told is a useful skill for journalists these days. Everybody wins! (Except the poor shmucks who have to read my play.)



Silver Pandas out for revenge against Clan

Alberta women's basketball team hopes to prove it's a contender again in rematch of last year's tight national final against SFU

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Pandas basketball team heads into every game hoping for a win, but as they look forward to this Friday's match, their thirst for victory is especially fierce. The Simon Fraser Clan will be here this weekend in a rematch of last year's national final, which SFU won 73-69 in a nail-biter.

The Pandas (11-3) are eagerly anticipating the chance to tip off against the Clan (15-1) again, and this time they're out for revenge.

"I don't know how much more you can be excited for a game than against the team that you lost to in the national final," Alberta head coach Scott Edwards said.

"All of us really, *really* want to get back at them for taking the gold medal away from us," fourth-year guard Katie Barrett agreed.

Though the two teams boast nearly even records on paper, the Clan will come into the Alberta gym as the definite favourite. The Pandas are ranked fifth in the country, while SFU sits at number one. The U of A players don't consider it a disadvantage, however.

"We're coming as the underdogs. It's really good for us because there's really no expectations for us," Barrett said. "Everyone's expecting them to win, but we know that we have the potential to take that win from them."

Barrett thinks that this year's U of A team has a few advantages that last year's didn't.

"I think we're definitely more athletic this year compared to when we played them last year, and I think we'll have a better time playing defence on them and controlling their penetration," she said.

Up against the highest-scoring offence in Canada West—the Clan average 82.2 points per game compared to the Pandas' 76.3—Alberta will have to concentrate on staying strong on their end of the court. According to Edwards, the Pandas stand a good chance against the Clan, but only if they can keep their biggest scorers in check.



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

TRYING TO GET AHEAD Fifth-year Carly McLennan was on the Pandas team that made it to nationals last year, and she'll be wanting a win on Friday.

"It's going to take a complete team effort defensively to stop this team," Edwards said. "As long we compete hard against them, I like our chances of winning that game."

But aside from the emotional ramifications of the game for the Pandas and the boost of confidence it would give Alberta if they won, Edwards

isn't taking Friday's match any more seriously than he would any other conference game.

"It's just one more win closer to our goal, which is winning our division," he said. "Ultimately, it's just one more game in conference play, and it's not really that big a deal, but it is in terms of confidence-building before playoffs and to see

where we stand.

"If we win it, great; if we don't, then we at least know what we need to work on as we get ready for playoffs."

After facing the Clan, the Pandas will take on Trinity Western (8-8) on Saturday night. Both games will be at 6pm in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

REACH FOR THE TOP Harvey Bradford, above, and the rest of the Bears are the second-highest scoring team in Canada West, but their defence still has holes.

Hoops Bears focus on defence

Uneven men's basketball team will need to protect their net against BC rivals

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Though his team is second in its division and in the top five in the conference, Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood is less than pleased with the results so far this season. He thinks his athletes can play better and more reliably than they have so far.

"Overall, the year's gone very well; we've played some very good games and played some very good teams and done well against them," he said. "But we just haven't been consistent. Right now, that's what we're struggling to find—how to put together two or three or four or five games in a row playing well."

This weekend the Bears (9-5) take on Simon Fraser (9-7) and Trinity Western (6-10) at home, and Horwood sees it as a good chance for Alberta to try to get some momentum going, especially after last weekend's disappointing loss to Manitoba, who are third-last in Canada West.

"They're key games for us," he said. "As much as anything, they're important for us psychologically, for us to come out and establish ourselves again as a very good team."

"Simon Fraser—they're not that deep, but they're good enough to beat

you if you don't play well, the same as Trinity."

While Horwood believes strongly in his team's abilities, he's candid about what he sees as their shortcomings. According to the coach, most of the team's problems are in their mental game.

"Our inconsistency is based, for the most part, on rather poor decision-making."

DON HORWOOD
BEARS HEAD COACH

"Our inconsistency is based, for the most part, on rather poor decision-making," he said. "And I don't think we have enough of a commitment to defence to push us over the hump. It's almost like it's difficult for some of our key guys to mentally be ready to play two games in a row."

Though Alberta is the second-highest scoring team in Canada West after Calgary—they put up an average of 87.8 points per game—their defence hasn't been as strong.

"We're very close to being in the top two or three teams in the

country, but that incomplete commitment to defence is enough to drop us down another tier," Horwood said.

Some of the Bears' problems are just pure bad luck. Third-year guard CG Morrison hurt his foot at the beginning of the season and missed the first half, and it's taking some time for him and the team to get back in the rhythm of playing together.

Several other Alberta athletes have been bothered by injuries as well, causing more complications: Scott Leigh hurt his knee over the holiday break, while Eric Casey has been sidelined by a foot injury as well.

It's not all tales of woe for the Bears, however. A number of players have been shining this season, including fifth-years like guard Alex Steele and centre Richard Bates, who's having the best season of his career. According to Horwood, success will just be a matter of getting everyone playing at his peak at the same time.

"All that being said, we're still in good position," he said. "There's still a lot of optimism, and certainly I have a tremendous amount of faith that this team's going to come through before it's over."

The Bears will play SFU at 8pm Friday night in the Main Gym, and TWU at the same time Saturday.



Veteran weight-thrower leads the Way for Pandas track team

It was almost by accident that Jenilee Way took up field sports seriously, but the Panda has since become one of the best female throwers in the nation

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Though you'd never be able to tell from the results she posts now, Jenilee Way didn't plan on becoming a thrower. A prolific athlete in high school, the Pandas' star weight-thrower put most of her athletic energies into volleyball—track and field events were something to do in the off-season from the court. But then injury struck, and Way was forced to re-evaluate.

"I blew out my ACL, and it was a harsh recovery," she says. "[But] track, for me, did not hurt my body. Volleyball is a lot of jumping and impact, and that's what had been hurting my knees. But throws, it's all rotational motion that I do.

"The reason I kind of went for it initially is that it hurt less."

So her high-school track coach put her in touch with the U of A's then-head coach Marek Glowacki, and by the time she arrived at the U of A, Way was thoroughly invested in the sport.

The choice turned out to be felicitous. Way found herself with a natural talent for the very physical throw events like weight throw—her specialty in the indoor season—and shot put. Current holder of a U of A weight-throw record, Way was CIS bronze medallist in weight throw in 2005 and earned silver the next year.

After taking a year off for an industrial internship last year, the chemistry student is back with the Pandas this season and is expected to clean up at the Canada West level.

"Jenilee is a very talented athlete," Alberta track and field coach Georgette Reed says.

Reed has watched Way's growth since the athlete joined the Pandas, and is excited to see what Way will achieve in her last year.

"She definitely has the potential to win CIS as long as she remains focused and uses her talents to the best of her abilities," Reed says.

Probably the top weight throw



PETE YEE

YOU SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND Panda Jenilee Way practiced her shot put for the Golden Bear Open last weekend at the U of A's Snow Fling fun meet.

prospect in the country and a strong contender in shot put as well, Way has high hopes for her own performance this season.

"My goal this year, I guess, is to win CIS," she says. "So, results haven't been what I want them to be, but I know I can meet my key goal, which is to break my U of A record, first of all, and to throw a little bit farther at the CIS level—which I'm pretty sure will win me the medal."

Way will have another chance to test herself against the best throwers in Canada West this weekend at the Golden Bears Open meet. And

while she's one of Alberta's best medal hopes, she has high expectations for her teammates this weekend as well.

"I'm really impressed with the female team. They're looking like they might actually take Canada West this year," she says. "We have some amazing jumpers, a lot of really good sprinters—our women's sprint crew has always been really strong. It's looking really strong, compared to even last year."

The Golden Bear Open begins on Friday at 5pm in the Pavilion, and continues Saturday at noon and Sunday at 9am.

I stand out.

Mitch Martel

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CANADA'S OPEN UNIVERSITY

SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

There can only be one number one

The story with the Pandas hockey team this week is all about Manitoba. After years of dominating Canada West and the country in general, Alberta (15-2-1) finally has some real competition in their conference. The Bisons (15-2-1) are second to the Pandas in Canada West based on goal differential.

Most observers consider this small step towards parity to be a good thing for women's hockey in this country. What the sport has needed is a serious rivalry to draw fans, create suspense, and generally raise the level of play.

This weekend's games at home could be the start of just such a rivalry. The Pandas, though still playing solidly, are having one of their weakest years yet—and they've already lost to the Bisons once this year. Meanwhile, the Bisons

will no doubt be out to prove that that game was no fluke. The teams will face off in Clare Drake Arena at 7pm Friday and Saturday nights.

Their balls have been extinguished

Compared to the Pandas game, the Bears hockey team (15-2-1) doesn't have too much on the line this weekend. They're in Calgary to see the Dinos (8-6-4) for the second time this year. The first time, Alberta swept the Dinos. Another planned series was postponed because of the mumps outbreak—and they're both sure to be gunning for a Battle of Alberta victory.

The Bears are the favourite, holding as they do the stronger record, an extremely deep scoring lineup, and some of the best goaltending in CIS.

help me think of something good.

Except for the infectious-disease angle, the volleyball Bears (10-2) are in a similar situation this weekend, as they too travel down to Calgary. The Dinos (6-4), though hardly a bad team, will have to work pretty

hard to keep up with the Bears.

No chance of a pity-victory?

The volleyball Pandas (9-3)—defending national champions—aren't destroying every team in their path as much as they have in previous years, but they're definitely still a side to be reckoned with.

Certainly, the outcome of this weekend's games are not much in doubt. The Pandas will be travelling to Simon Fraser (0-14). The Clan have lost more sets this season than the Pandas have won, and no one will be surprised if this weekend's games are rather one-sided.

Trix no longer for university kids

The U of A announced Wednesday that Trix Baker has officially resigned as head coach of Pandas basketball. Baker has been on leave since the end of the 2005/06 season, and the announcement comes as the exact opposite of a surprise. Baker was head coach for 15 years, and led the Pandas to their only national championship, in 1998/99. She'll likely stay on as Pandas general manager.

No art in mixed martial arts

Other combat sports like boxing and tae kwon do have dignity, tradition, and honour, but the unadulterated violence of MMA has no cultural value at all



DEREK
BATES

Sports
Commentary

The world of sports is welcoming a vicious newcomer to the mainstream: mixed martial arts (MMA). This new combat sport has taken all the rules, honour, and tradition out of the classic combat sports and produced a ruthless blood-bath to poison viewers' minds.

Even worse, the rise of MMA has coincided with the decline of a great and ancient sport: the sweet science of boxing. Where are the good old days when two people would clobber each other using just their fists while wearing padded gloves? Boxing is a fantastic sport because it takes physical endurance and strategy to defeat your opponent, not just a strong arm. Boxers spend months training their mind and bodies to prepare for a single fight, and, ignoring some notable exceptions, it's a sport steeped in tradition and excellence.

MMA, on the other hand, is a no-holds-barred, virtually rule-free environment in which two men or two women pummel each other using the method of their choice.

Now, I personally don't see the appeal in watching two half-naked men wrestle for three five-minute sets, but this "sport" has set records in pay-per-view sales and sky-rocketed to one of the most watched events on TV.

You aren't going hear someone, 20 years down the road, say: "Remember that time when (insert tough guy's name here) put a 30-stitch cut on the chin of (insert unfortunate victim's name here) back in '08?"

This bastardization of more traditional martial arts is a dangerous trend. When I took tae kwon do, the worst thing I did to someone was bow at him. Glorifying and rewarding the best way to make someone else bleed or faint is a complete departure from what martial arts are all about—discipline, honour, and respect.

Often, popular sports are reflective of the cultures that foster them. This is another reason it concerns me that MMA has gained such prominence in

our culture. Many sports, including football and hockey, involve an element of violence. However, mixed martial arts crosses the line from sport into brutality. Sports today put too much emphasis on violence in general, and I just don't see the point.

You aren't going hear someone 20 years down the road say, "Remember that time when (insert tough guy's name here) put a 30-stitch cut on the chin of (insert unfortunate victim's name here) back in '08? That's was a great match!" Rather, we'll likely still be reminiscing about the Patriots' perfect season, Kobe's 81 points in 2006, and the Stanley Cup the Flames won in '08. Okay, maybe the latter is only wishful thinking, but you get the picture.

Violence now holds a place near and dear to the North American heart, and the ramifications of this trend are clear. As athletes get bigger, stronger and faster, these assets will be used to hurt rather than to compete against other athletes.

While it is unlikely that sports like boxing will completely die out, I cringe at the rise of such lowly pursuits as MMA into the mainstream of North American athletics. The departure from respect and honor that are such integral part of sport—and traditional martial arts in particular—may mean a major shift in the sports of the future.

Cardinals and Blue Jays should both be Rolen with glee over Glaus-ome trade



PAUL
OWEN

Sports
Commentary

It's rare for a trade to satisfy all parties involved, but that's exactly what Monday's Troy-Glaus-for-Scott-Rolen swap accomplished for the Toronto Blue Jays and St Louis Cardinals.

The Cardinals add some much-needed power in the form of Glaus, who has never hit less than 29 homers in a season where he's had 500 at-bats. And while Glaus' plantar fasciitis and general foot, knee, and back pain will never go away—*Globe and Mail* baseball writer Jeff Blair has said that he's "seldom seen a guy move around in such discomfort and still play"—at least they should be minimized by getting away from the turf at Rogers Centre. Moreover, he has put up typical per-at-bat numbers in each of his two seasons with the Blue Jays, despite battling his old-man syndrome, so barring it getting significantly worse (something the dirt and grass at Busch Stadium should prevent) he should be good for the same over the next two years in St Louis—a team that had only two players hit 20 digits last season.

The biggest gain for the Cards, however, may be that they were able to trade Rolen for a player of equal value with a similar contract at the same position. After Rolen butted heads with manager Tony La Russa for the last season or so since La Russa benched him in the 2006 playoffs, the Cards must count themselves lucky to have gotten out from

under him in such good shape rather than having to trade him for prospects or lesser value.

North of the border, the Jays get a hopefully more durable third baseman in Rolen, someone who will also greatly improve the defence on the left side of the infield. The rotator cuff surgery Rolen underwent in the off-season was proclaimed 100-per-cent successful by Dr James Andrews, baseball's leading orthopedic surgeon.

But perhaps the biggest winners in this trade had nothing at all to do with it.

While Rolen's defence should be outstanding—he's a seven-time Gold Glover in the National League—because his injured shoulder is his non-throwing one, it's at the plate that Andrews' diagnosis is most important to the Jays. When healthy, Rolen far surpasses Glaus in every conceivable offensive category except power and will give the Jays a better approach against right-handed pitching, against which they were dismal last season.

Of course, both Glaus and Rolen had asked for trades from their respective teams—Glaus to help his body and Rolen to get away from La Russa—so both got what they wanted out of it.

But perhaps the biggest winners in this trade had nothing at all to do with it. Balbino Fuenmayor and Kevin Ahrens aren't exactly household names, but the duo have the most to gain by the Jays' acquisition of Rolen. Glaus' contract was up after 2008 (though he had a player option for

2009 that he probably wouldn't have exercised), and with the Jays in "win now" mode until 2010—most of their veterans are signed until then, as are GM JP Ricciardi and manager John Gibbons—Glaus' impending departure would have forced Ricciardi to look for another offensively inclined third baseman to help the team compete in '09 and '10. On the open market, this would probably have meant a long-term deal.

Which brings us back to Fuenmayor (who turns 20 in November) and Ahrens (19 in April). The duo played third base and shortstop respectively for the Gulf Coast League Jays in short-season rookie ball this summer. Both are major league prospects despite their young ages, and Ahrens—who has been compared to Chipper Jones based on skill set, switch hitting, and body type—is projected to slide over to third.

With Rolen locked up over the next three seasons, that will allow the two youngsters to advance through the Jays' minor league system at the hot corner until after the 2010 season. At that point, it should be much clearer as to how they will work out as big leaguers, and they won't have to worry about any veterans taking up space at their allotted position. Moreover, there will be an opening for them on the big club should they be ready to take it over. And, with Rolen in place, the Jays will have no reason to rush the development of their prospects, giving the young men ample time to adjust to the various levels of professional baseball.

So while the Jays and Cards may be happy with the outcome of their recent deal, it's a pair of teenagers who have the biggest reason to smile.

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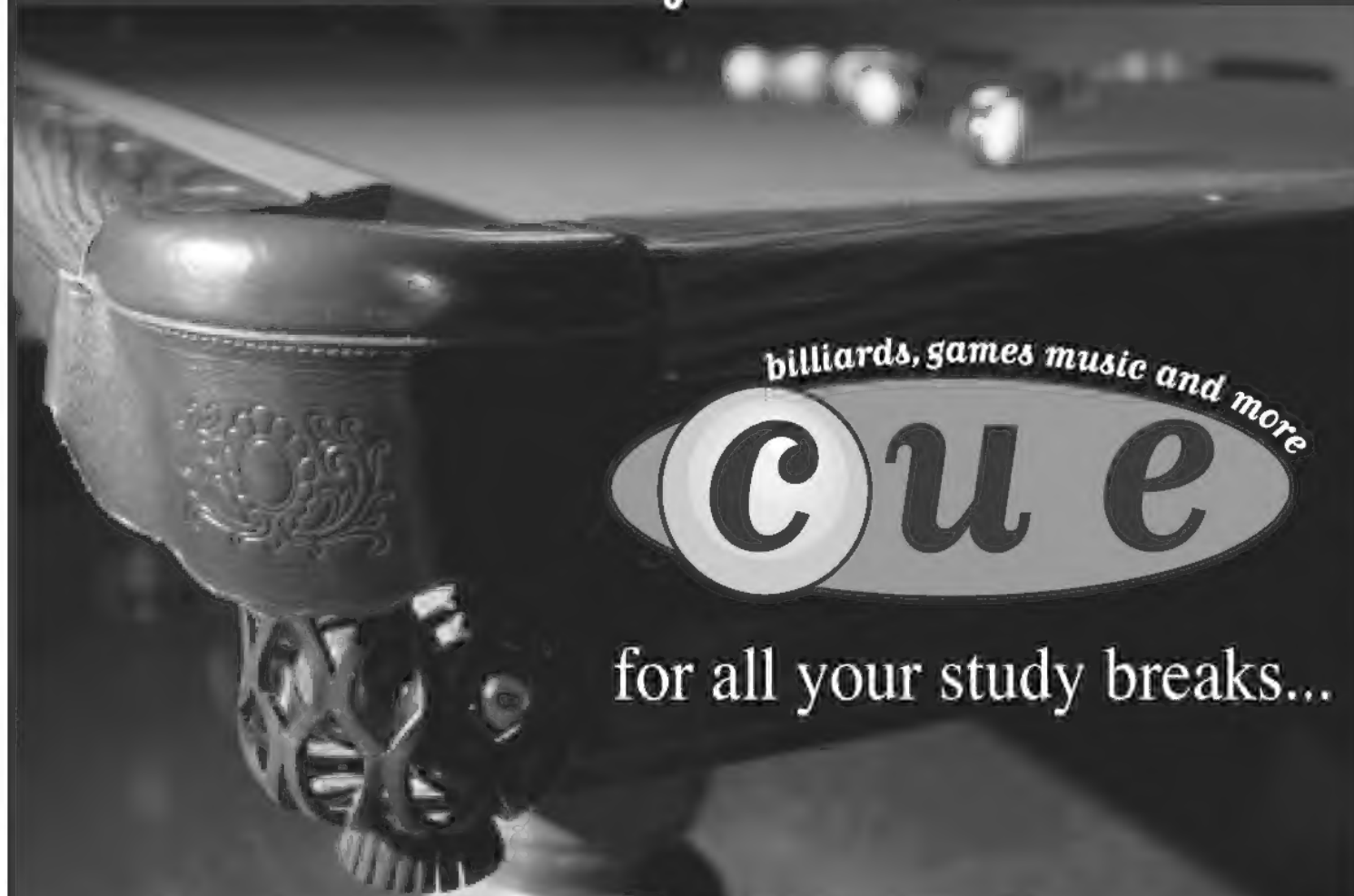
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THE GATEWAY

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MIKE OTTO & CYRIL BALITBIT

SHANGRIA? WE HARDLY KNEW YA! Engineers descended on Quad yesterday for Shangria, where participants down a beverage and spin around a bat. Think about it: these people are building our bridges.

U of A attempts to balance research and instruction

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

While undergraduate students may think that the University of Alberta emphasizes research over teaching, those in research say that's not the case, arguing that good teaching needs good research programs.

U of A Vice-President (Research) Lorne Babiuk said that while some newly built University buildings have more research than instructional space, both graduate and undergraduate students still benefit.

He pointed out that while buildings like NINT have no instructional space, the world-class researchers it has attracted benefits students. He explained that research provides all students with the most up-to-date ideas in their field.

"As a student, I would rather have a professor talk to me in [a] lecture about the most recent things that are happening, rather than reading textbooks which are five years out of date," he said. "When students graduate, they are much more in-tune with what is happening in the world."

Likewise, Nils Petersen, director-general of NINT, said that both undergraduate and graduate students studying nanotechnology have benefited from NINT's establishment in June 2006.

"In the undergraduate level, there are now new programs and courses being established that allow students

to specialize and get exposure to new fields," he said. "You're seeing it at all levels."

However, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel said that the University, while setting a research-to-instruction space ratio, hasn't been able to find a balance between emphasizing research and teaching.

"Both [research and teaching] are beneficial to the University, but over-emphasizing one over the other can be hurtful," he said. "The SU's concerned about the emphasis on research over teaching. We are a research-intensive university, but not a teaching-intensive university."

Samuel explained that the large emphasis on research gives professors an incentive to spend more time on research and grant applications than on teaching and lesson plans. He suggested that professors should integrate their research with their classes more effectively to make lectures more interesting for students.

However, despite Samuel's concerns, Michael Brougham, a second-year graduate student studying nanotechnology, said that many professors who do research in NINT bring their classes into the institute's research labs to show them what's being done.

"It brings home the message [about] what the professor is saying in the classroom," he explained, adding that a major reason he chose to study at the U of A was NINT.

PLEASE SEE NINT ♦ PAGE 3

Med journal debates degree lengths

An editorial in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* questions whether three- or four-year programs are most effective at training future doctors

CAROLINE LEE
News Staff

In an editorial published in their 1 January issue, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (CMAJ) took a controversial initiative to evaluate the efficiency of the current Canadian medical curriculum.

Currently, most Canadian universities endorse a four-year curriculum, including the University of Alberta. Exceptions are the University of Calgary and McMaster University, where three-year programs have been adopted. With a lack of evidence to suggest that one medical curriculum is superior to the other, the CMAJ asks whether the extra year is necessary.

"The CMAJ is saying that it's time somebody looked to see if there is any difference between graduates of the three-year and the four-year programs," said Dr David Rayner, the U of A's associate dean of undergraduate medical education.

The implementation of a nationwide, three-year medical curriculum would result in an average reduction in government spending by \$170 000 per student, the current cost necessary to support a year of medical school. According to the article, written by physicians Kenneth Flegel, Paul Hébert, and Noni MacDonald, this system would also allow for a reduction in student debt by \$2181 at the Laval

University or \$16 862 at the University of Toronto.

As explained by Dr Tom Feasby, Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary, another advantage to this system is that medical students would gain an extra year of independent practice at the peak of their intellectual and physical competency, addressing the problem associated with a shortage of doctors. By graduating medical students earlier, a corresponding increase in the workforce would follow.

"The CMAJ is saying that it's time somebody looked to see if there is any difference between graduates of the three-year and the four-year programs."

DR DAVID RAYNER
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE
MEDICAL EDUCATION

"It's a shorter curriculum in what is part of a very long process to becoming a practicing physician. A lot of people think that if you can get out one year earlier, that's an advantage," explained Feasby. "If physicians, on the average, practice one year longer, there would be a 3–4 per cent increase

in [their] working [lives], in theory."

Current three-year programs don't display any deficiencies in quality compared to four-year programs. At the U of C, Feasby said graduating medical students are among the most highly valued physicians across Canada. On the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Exam, these students perform at par, if not better, than the mean of Canadian medical students.

"On the Part One exam, [which tests] factual knowledge, our students perform at the mean of the country, so they do as well as other schools. For the Part Two exam, [measuring] clinical decision-making skills, our students finished in the top three," Feasby said.

"[We also] ask how our students compare to the average students they have. Two thirds of the time, they rated our students as above average."

However, Aaron Knox, President of the Medical Students' Association, believes the four-year program has some distinct advantages over the suggested program. At the U of A, medical students have a full four-month break, while students at the University of Calgary have a vacation of just two weeks. U of A students are allowed also more time to explore various fields of medicine to get a better feel for what specialty they want to pursue through electives and research.

PLEASE SEE MED SCHOOL ♦ PAGE 2

Inside

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Long time writing

David Johnston recalls his fight against delirium while penning his theatrical masterpiece in just 24 hours.

A&E FEATURE, PAGE 16



Long time coming

The last time the Pandas saw SFU was in the national final. Can the b-ballers beat them this time around?

SPORTS, PAGE 17

Das Capital

The Gateway editorial staff will be in Ottawa learning how to make newspapers more betterly this weekend. See that? Horrible grammar. That won't happen when our next issue hits on 24 January. Promise.

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If this were the playground, we'd totally be picking these guys last

No, seriously: how on earth do any of these guys possibly still have their jobs?



SPORTS STAFF

Group Commentary

No one here at the Gateway is particularly powerful or important; we're not superstars or captains of industry. That said, we're extremely attractive, clever, and competent individuals. As such, we know suck when we see it, and we can tell when someone in the world of sports does not deserve their job.

Ben Carter

Diehard pro-hockey fans have for the most part grown immune to the effect that Gary Bettman's disastrous reign has had on their league. But this week, Bettman delivered another slap in the face: Craig Leipold, owner of the Nashville Predators from their inception until late 2007, was allowed to purchased a majority share of the Minnesota Wild.

Attendance at Predators games had lagged near the bottom of the league even when they were one the best teams on the ice, but somehow Leipold was rewarded for his top-notch management skills with the ownership of one of the NHL's most profitable teams in one of its most loyal markets.

Leipold nearly sold the Predators to Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie in 2007, but the NHL blocked the sale when it became clear that Balsillie intended to move the team to hockey-mad Southern Ontario. The league then facilitated the sale to a group of Nashville businessmen, ensuring that hockey will be enjoyed by at least 11 000 Nashvillians 41 times per year for years to come.

But it's not just incidents like this that demonstrate Bettman's incompetence. When he took office in the early '90s, the NHL—thanks to Gretzky, Lemieux and others—was more popular than ever. Nearly a decade and a half later, the NHL, despite having its best on-ice product in years and young stars throughout, ranks somewhere alongside tennis and lower than golf in terms of viewership in the US.

While Canadian teams rake in the cash, many teams in the United States play in half-empty buildings, with improvement nowhere in sight. It's unclear what the NHL hopes to achieve with this strategy, but it's obvious that Bettman cares more about the hypothetical fans that might one day fill arenas than he does about the actual ones that keep the NHL alive.

For this total disregard for his most loyal customers, Bettman should be fired immediately and replaced by someone who understands that attracting new fans and rewarding the old ones aren't mutually exclusive.

Derek Bates

When the Phoenix Coyotes cleaned house last year, they fired everyone from the general manager to the water boy, and if the coach had been anyone but the Great One, he would now be the Jobless One. After what was the team's worst season since moving to Phoenix from Winnipeg, the Coyotes cleared out their front office, leaving Wayne Gretzky at the helm for at least

another season.

This is despite the fact that Wayne was also caught up in a scandal involving his wife and his assistant coach betting on professional football games. Wayne Gretzky is admittedly one of the most talented athletes of all time, but even great athletes don't always make great coaches.

Nowadays, it usually seems like coach can't sneeze the wrong way if they don't want to be fired, and if almost any other bench boss were involved in a train-wreck of a season like the Coyotes were and had been marred in a betting scandal, they'd be fired no questions asked.

While it is true that the Coyotes have made some definite improvements this season, in the dog-eat-dog world that is professional sports, if you aren't producing now, you're out the door. While the Great One will always hold a special place in the hearts of Canadian sports fans, the only reason he's still coaching today is because of his name.

Nick Frost

The people of Detroit and I may not have much in common, but we do agree on at least one thing: it's about time Detroit Lions' President, CEO, and general manager Matt Millen got fired. How a former player and colour-commentator with zero experience in any front office managed to get such a prominent role within an NFL franchise in the first place is beyond me.

Don't get me wrong: the Lions aren't known for producing spectacular results—in fact, they haven't really done so since the early '90s—but since Millen took over in 2001, the team somehow managed to find a way to get worse.

For the past decade or so, the Lions under Millen's regime have been mired in mediocrity, posting record after record below .500 and drafting players in several key positions that have failed to live up to their hype. Added to that, the Lions have spent four of their last six first round-picks on wide receivers, all taken in the top ten.

This past season in particular should have spelled the end for Millen. After his team started the season 6–2 behind the bold play and even bolder ten-win prediction of quarterback Jon Kitna, Millen was being touted as a possible candidate for Executive of the Year. All that, however, just compounds how particularly embarrassing the last half of the season was: the Lions went on to lose seven of their last eight games and once again became the laughing stock of the NFL.

Robin Collum

Isaiah Thomas—Knicks head coach and director of “basketball operations”—is, without a doubt, the least popular man in basketball. Knicks fans cannot stand the man, and even those who would normally wish the New York team ill are put off by the man's arrogant attitude, off-court misogyny, and towering incompetence.

As a point guard for the Detroit Pistons, Thomas was an excellent player. He holds fourth place in NBA history in career assists—9061 total—and ninth in steals with 1861. Even then, he had a reputation of being a total jerk: though no one's ever admitted it, it's alleged that he led a freeze-out of Michael Jordan at the 1985 All-Star game out of pure jealousy.

As a coach and an executive—and, in my eyes, as a person—he's frankly terrible. In 1994 he became a part owner and Executive Vice President of the Raptors, but he left that organization four years later amid allegations of inappropriate conduct with staff (sound familiar?) and accusations that he gave tickets and merchandise to NCAA players.

In 2000, he took over from Larry Bird as coach of the Indiana Pacers, and he promptly put the brakes on that team's progress. When he was fired from that position in 2003, Thomas was quickly picked up by the Knicks, and that's where the trouble really started.

If Thomas had been unimpressive and, well, sort of sketchy before, it was nothing compared to the catastrophe that has been his tenure in New York. And really, it seems like he must have tenure because otherwise it's beyond me why they haven't kicked him to the curb.

He's been terrible for the Knicks organization both on and off the court. As a GM, Thomas has paid out exorbitant salaries to underperforming players, and gotten miserable records in return. As of Wednesday, the team was 44–75 since he took over.

Off the court, he's losing too. A senior Knicks executive, Anucha Browne Sanders, sued Madison Square Gardens (the Knicks' owners) for letting Thomas sexually harass her, and they were fined \$11.6 million.

And still, he kept his job. Absolutely inexplicable.

Marc Affeld

Perhaps of the greatest tragedies in professional sports occurs when fans are subjected to the seemingly never-ending tenure of a terrible owner. All one has to do to confirm this is ask a Boston Bruins fan his or her opinion of team owner Jeremy Jacobs.

The author of www.pleasesellthebruins.com sums up the shared sentiment of many of Boston's hockey fans: “Greed, failure, mismanagement, and mediocrity ‘highlight’ Jeremy Jacobs’ 33 years as owner of the Boston Bruins,” the site says. Jacobs, like many other owners of professional sports teams, has come to realize that it's not necessarily in his best interest to be the owner of a competitive or exciting team, as mediocrity is apparently profitable enough.

The problem for the die-hard fans—and the reason he's still around—is that Jacobs isn't exactly bad for the franchise. According to *Forbes* magazine, the Bruins were the seventh-most valuable NHL team during the 2006/07 season. Also, despite his infamous frugality, Jacobs has increased player expenses more than twofold in the past decade.

But what do statistics like this mean when one considers the fact that the Bruins have only made it to the second round of the playoffs twice in their past 15 seasons? It's a slap in the face of hockey fans who have to endure the fact that one of the “Original Six” has spent the past few decades operating like it was an expansion team. Jacobs needs to do the fans a favour and sell the Bruins to someone who is at least willing to pretend that there is more to the NHL than profits. Last time I checked, the League was still annually giving one lucky team a Stanley Cup, and it's not given to the accountants.



astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

Well I hope everyone had a productive yet restful winter break. My highlights included booze, taking care of a sick muffin, and far too much *Battlestar Galactica*. I'm sure everyone is back in the groove and itching for their first assignment, hah!

There was good news for the planet Mars last week: an asteroid will not impact its surface at the end of this month. Asteroid 2007 WD5

now has only a 1 in 10 000 chance of hitting Mars on 30 January. I'll bet the little Martian rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, are breathing a bit easier now.

If you would like to take a (last?) look at Mars, I suggest you wait until Saturday evening. When you go outside after dark, look for the moon. I'll bet you \$1 million it'll be the brightest thing in the night sky. Just a little lower and to the right of the moon will be the planet Mars. Now how easy is that?

One more thing. If you want to

get serious about astronomy this week, then you should take a look at the brightest star in our nighttime sky, Sirius. Look to the southeast after dark, and it'll be the brightest star in the sky. If you think you see it changing colours, you're not having an acid flashback; it's just atmospheric disturbance from our oxygen-rich air!

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Volunteer with SafeWalk! We offer flexible shifts, an opportunity to meet new people, improve your resume, and get involved! SafeWalk is a Students Union run service that walks people home at night on and around campus. Apply today! Visit www.su.ualberta.ca/safewalk to get your application. Application deadline is 28 January.

Volunteer Assistant for Kids Karate Cup, ages 6-12. One hour/week Thursdays 4pm, two blocks from U of A Campus. 2+ years experience in a Martial Art. Email WPKKC Sensei@notmail.com or phone Gordon at 492-9930 weekdays.

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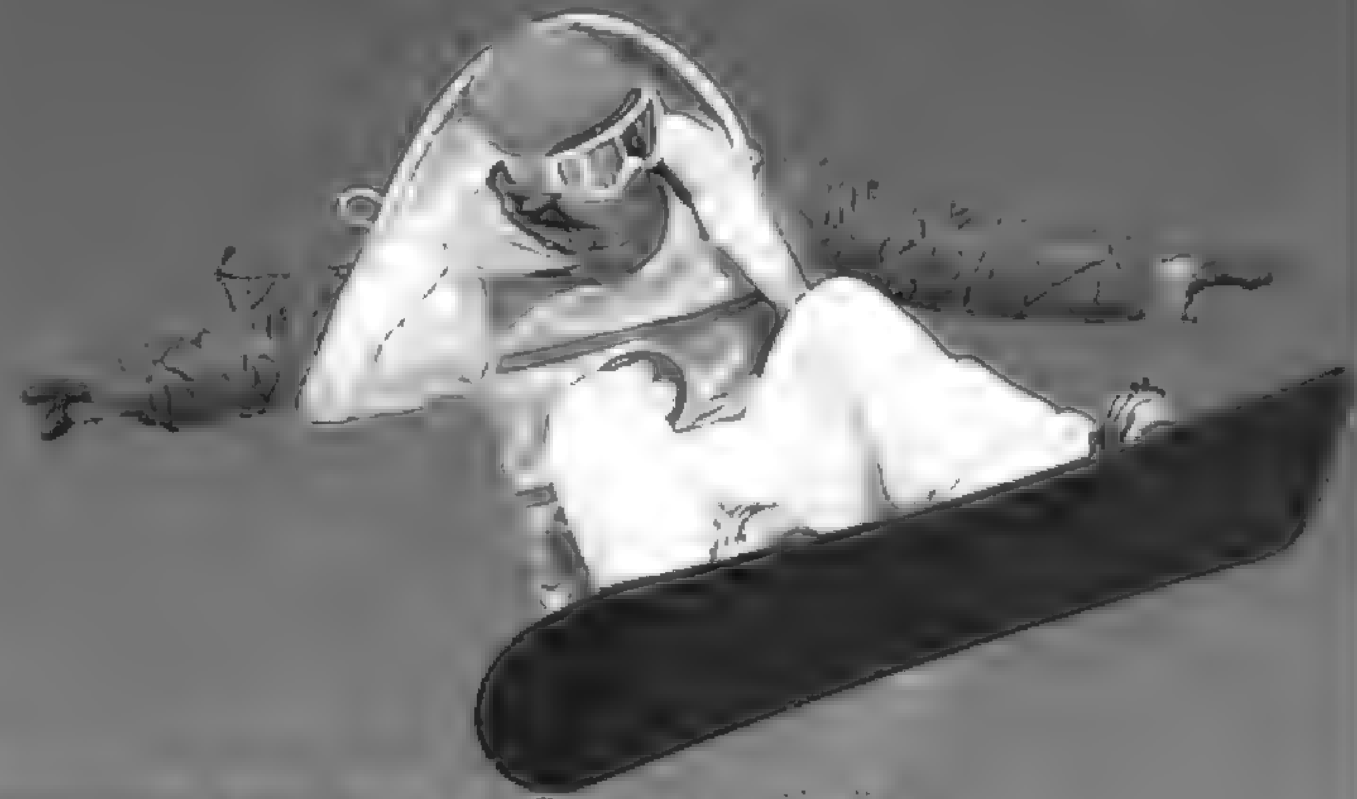
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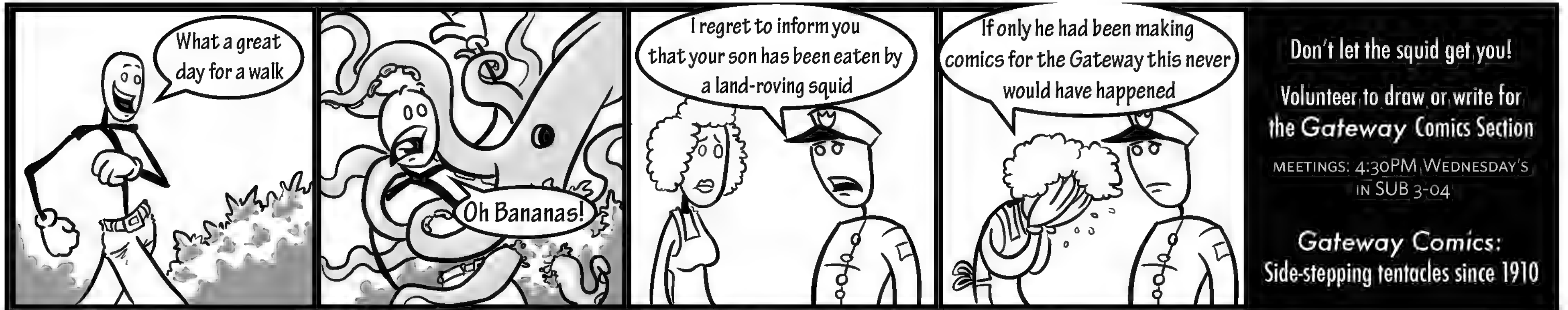


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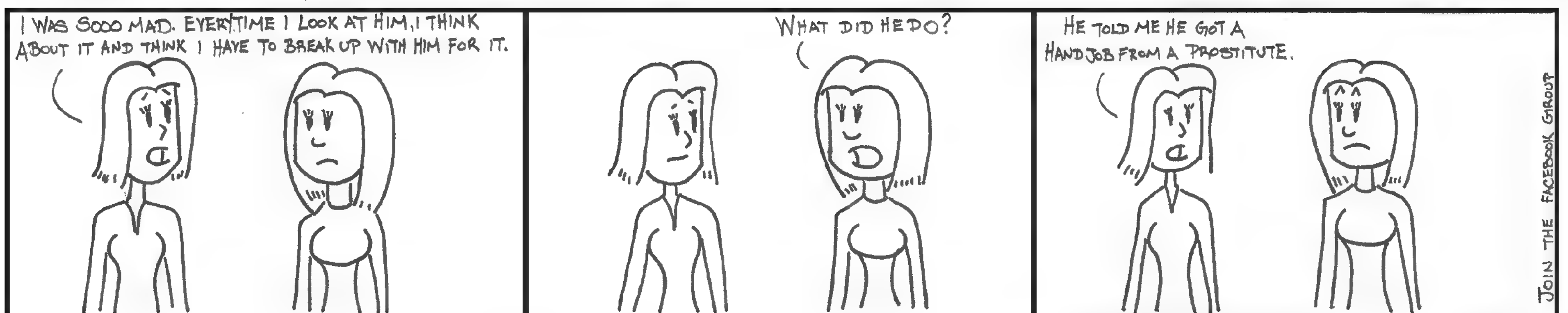
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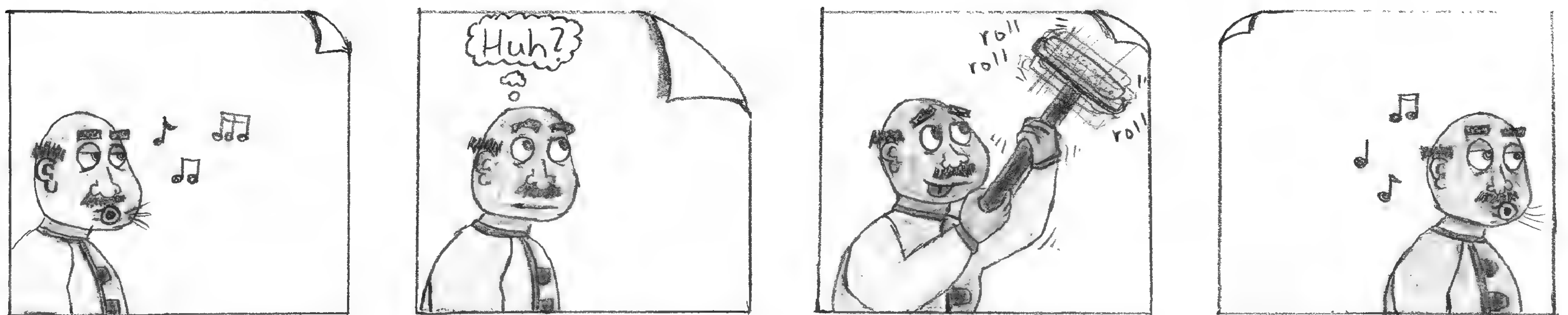
HOW TO MAKE A BANANA SANDWICH by Gateway Staff



OVERHEARD AT THE U OF A by Matt Lui



COMIC WORLD by Alex Baloukov



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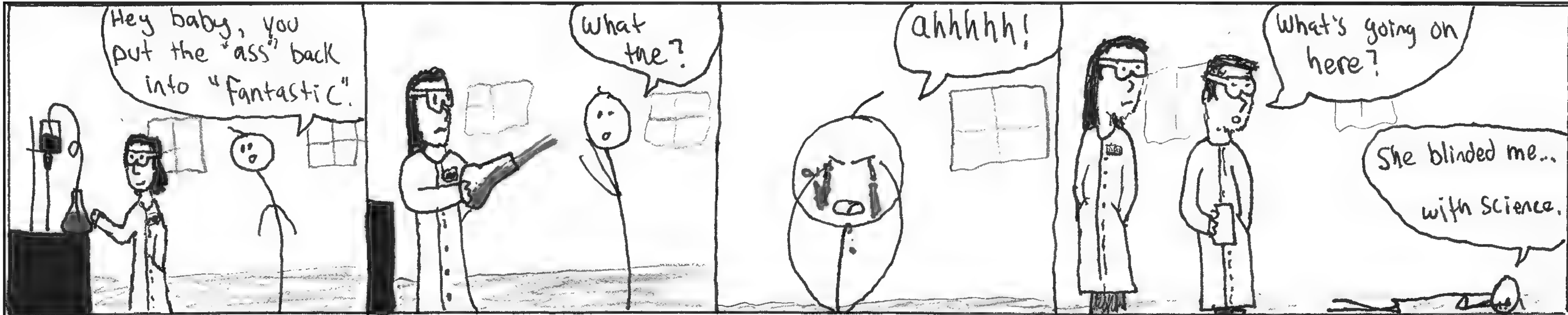
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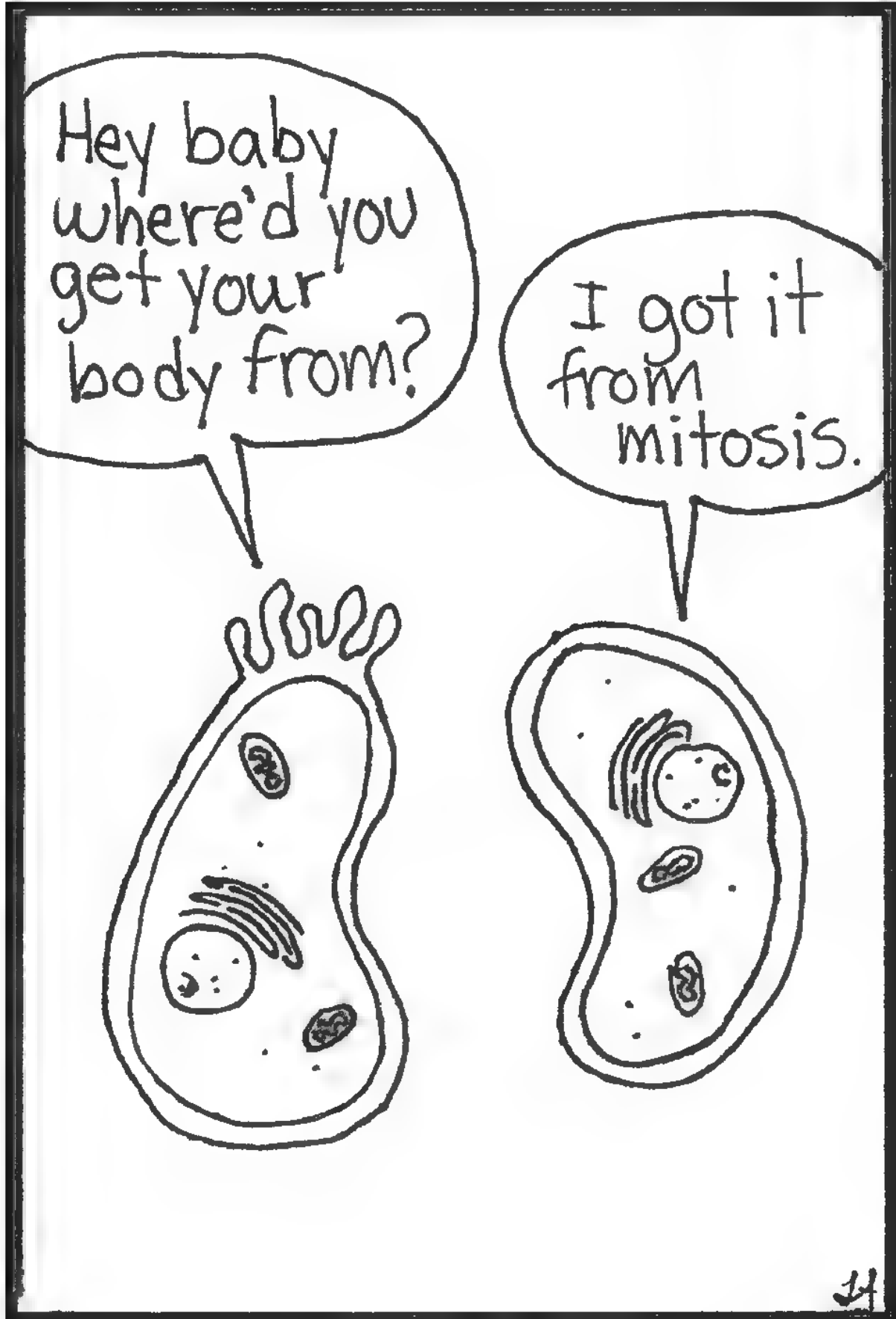
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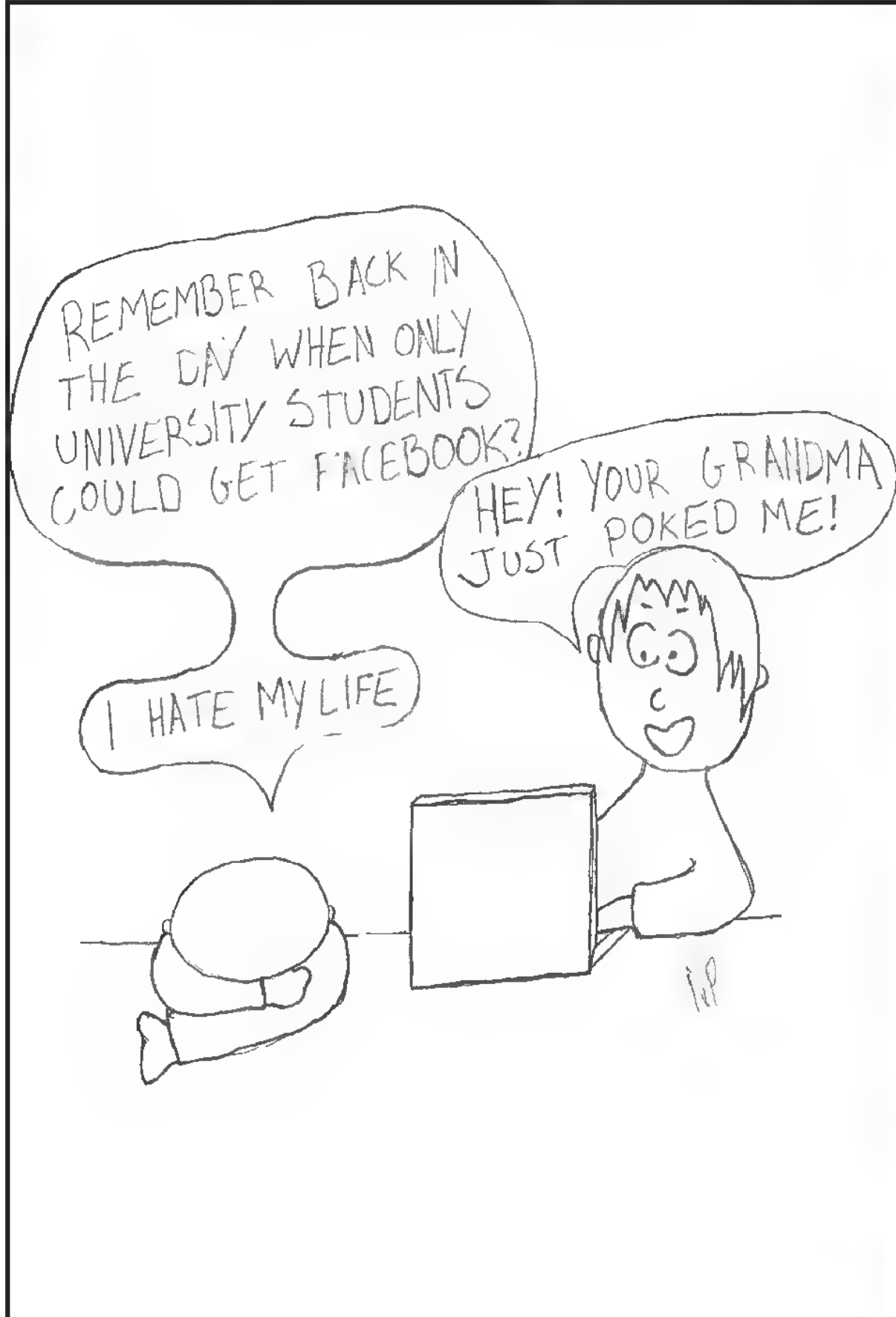
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Ross, won't hang out with you in Ottawa. Prusakovsk, David. Johnston, Kat. Koo, Marc. Affe, Ben. Carter, Derek. Bates, Lauren. Stegitz, Sam. Brooks, Nick. Frost, Jon. Kmech, Sarah. Stead, Vanessa. Horne, Ben. Stanford, Scott. Fenwick, Caroline. Lee, Cody. Civiero, Tom. Wagner, Catherine. Scott, Brian. Gould, Mike. Raneem, Jon. Maste, Alex. Boudreau, Matt. Lu, Jeff. Martin, Marie. Gomerac, Tnatone. guitar, John. Gagnon, Lauren. Aston, Chris. Krause, Nathan. Pump, Andre. Rutar, Lauren. Stegitz, Stu. Trebe, co. Pete. Tee.



MIKE OTTO

IN FAVOUR OF FOUR MSA President Aaron Knox prefers the current system.

U of A Med has no plans to change

MED SCHOOL ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I really cherish the summers off. It gives us opportunities to work, to research, to travel, to shadow, to think about what we want to do, and to diversify our interests. There's a lot more freedom to do things in the summer," Knox said. "With the three-year program, you get forced very early on to say, 'I'm going to go for this specialty' or 'I want to do this' and focus all your energy there.'"

Even with the apparent benefits of the three-year program, the U of A has no immediate plans to revamp its current medical program, especially as U of A students placed first in the country for the first portion of the Medical Council Exam in 2007.

"We know what we're doing right now works pretty well. Our students are considered desirable by postgraduate program directors. They're considered to be competent, and they're performing very, very well. So, many of us would take the viewpoint that

'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' But if there were some compelling reasons to change, we would do it," Rayner explained.

Rayner also emphasized that while the editorial put forth some provoking questions regarding medical education, there needs to be more direct comparisons and data collection done before either system can be seen as superior. As of now, it appears that having the choice to decide between either of the programs benefits students, depending on what they value or require most.

"The ideal situation is one of choice. I don't think all medical schools should be a three-year program or that all medical schools should be a four-year program. People go into medicine for different reasons, and they enter into the field at different periods in their lives. [It depends on what] scenario is best for you as an individual," Knox said.

"It's nice to have the option to choose a three-year or four-year program."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero & Tom Wagner

FREEZER GEEZER

At 1:30am on 6 January, Campus 5-0 came across an elderly male walking on the road on 87 Avenue. The man was very disoriented and lost, and told officers that he had been walking around in the cold for several hours looking for the hospital outpatient residence where he was supposed to check in. CSS officers drove the man to the hospital and, with the help of hospital security officers, ensured that he was able to check into the residence.

PLEASE INSERT PAYMENT IN TRAY 3

At about 2:30pm on 9 January, store staff reported that a male was observed trying to steal a printer from the Bookstore in SUB. The suspect was outside the store attempting to remove the printer from its box when a staff member approached him and asked to see a receipt. The suspect told the staff member that he had left the receipt inside the Bookstore. When the staff member asked the suspect to return to the book to check for the receipt, the suspect quickly walked away without the printer. The suspect is described as 50-60 years of age, of medium height, and wearing black-rimmed glasses. If you see this man, please contact Campus Security immediately.

OLD-TIME CREDIT CARD FRAUD

On 10 January at 6pm, Campus Security received a report that an unidentified male had just purchased items from a merchant in HUB Mall using a wom-

an's credit card. The male then fled the area via the LRT. Further investigation revealed that the card had been stolen from a University office. The male is described as approximately 45 years of age, stocky, and overweight, and wearing a blue ski jacket with a rip in the back and "nerdy" glasses. This crime is currently under investigation by both the EPS and CSS. If you any information, please contact Campus Security.

AT LEAST IT'S NOT A CAT

In the early hours of 14 January, Campus Security and the Edmonton Fire Department responded to a fire alarm in Schäffer Hall. An unidentified individual had left a bag of popcorn in a microwave for an extended period of time, causing the bag and the microwave to catch fire. Damage is estimated at around \$200.

TOO MUCH SACRAMENTAL WINE

On 14 January at 7:00am, Campus Security responded to a report of a suspicious male attempting to enter offices within St. Joseph's College. Upon arrival, a male well known to Campus Security was found attempting to access an office while in an intoxicated state. The male voluntarily turned his intoxicants over to Campus Security officers and was then escorted off University property without charges.

CAMO FAILS TO CONCEAL PACK

Around noon on 11 January, Campus Security received a report of a stolen backpack containing a laptop at Clare Drake Arena. The backpack and laptop had been left on the players' bench while the complainant was participating in activities on the ice. The backpack is described as black-and-white camouflage and containing a Toshiba computer.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Ryan Shippelt

As you may be aware, rappers 50 Cent, Timbaland, and Mary J Bilge have recently been implicated in a steroid scandal.

First athletics, now rap—where will steroids spread next?



Amy Follinglo
Arts I



Ewen "I'm in
Streeters like so
friggin' much"
Lavoie
Science III



Sarah Dunn
Arts I



Adrian Kense
Science I

I guess academics. Or the engineers so they could get buff and get girls.

Porn.

Clowns. That way they could lift really big objects, and that would be funny. Like a giant phone [so it wouldn't have to be made of foam anymore]. It would be a feat instead of just a joke.

Daycares. Daycares are going to run rampant with steroids as each kid tries to beat up every other kid in the sandbox.

ALL ABOARD the party TRAIN

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Government creates categories for PSE

Framework limits research to the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge, as well as recognizing baccalaureate institutions

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

The Government of Alberta has taken the first step towards clarifying the roles and mandates of postsecondary institutions in the province by categorizing them all into six distinct groups.

The Roles and Mandates Policy Framework, put together by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, clearly defines the role of each postsecondary institution in the province and limits research to the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge.

Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner explained that when he first entered into his position, he didn't feel that there was "enough coordinated planning—enough of a campus Alberta approach." This framework, he said, will hopefully provide the needed clarity around "what everybody is supposed to be doing in the system because not everybody can be everything and all things to all people."

Horner explained that discussions with student representatives and school administrations began early last year, with the most recent draft of the framework being presented in November. Currently, working groups have yet to finish putting details on implementing roles and mandates, and it's expected that they won't report back in time for changes to be made for the upcoming 2008 budgetary year.

But so far, the initial response to the framework from university administrators has been generally positive.

"It very clearly, I think, assigns to the University a continuing role at the undergraduate level, but also for the first time is unambiguous in that universities are where we're going to do graduate education," said Carl Amrhein, University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

"I think the government was very bold and, quite frankly, the Minister resisted a lot of political pressure to make the document not as crisp and clear as it currently is," Amrhein continued. "So I think from the University's point of view, it's a terrific

framework. However [...] the details will be the deciding factor on some of these things."

So far, Amrhein said that discussions have been both productive and useful, but he noted that the final funding formula may dampen his enthusiasm. "On the other hand, once the finance people are finished with it, we may have some concerns."

U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky noted that the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) was successful during the consultation process in making sure that the category the three universities fell into included a focus on teaching and avoided redundancy.

"I think the government was very bold and, quite frankly, the Minister resisted a lot of political pressure to make the document not as crisp and clear as it currently is."

CARL AMRHEIN
U OF A PROVOST AND VP (ACADEMIC)

"The idea is that they can strategically invest and know where their capacity is so that we don't have three nanotechnology centres when we only necessarily need one," Dollansky said. "We'd be better off and benefit from economies of scale—and, at the same time, taking into account pure geographic needs so that we're not teaching, for example, about farm animals here in the middle of the city when Lakeland has excellent agriculture programs."

Mike Selnes, U of C Students' Union VP (External) and Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) President, said that he thinks the effects of this framework will touch more on the administrative level. He also added that with instructional excellence now defined as a core mandate, he hopes an increased focus will be put on ensuring "the needs of undergraduates are met as much of the needs of graduate

students."

"It's really important that we do see sustained development for undergrads, and we're hoping this framework will allow that to happen," Selnes said.

Mount Royal President Dave Marshall said that he was happy with the creation of a distinct category for a new kind of institution at the university level that focuses only on undergraduate instruction.

"Mount Royal today is essentially the baccalaureate institution that the government's proposed," he said. However, he shared Amrhein's apprehension for how the final nuances will appear.

"The catch—and it always is the case with things like this—is of course in all the details," Marshall said. "If it's implemented poorly, then the risk is that you've created an institution delivering a lot of degrees that nobody wants to take."

U of A Graduate Students' Association President Julie Charchun also highlighted the need to look beyond provincial borders when considering what constitutes a good research opportunity.

"As a graduate student, you look everywhere. You're looking internationally, so just within Alberta is kind of a small context," she said, adding that while research programs in Alberta may be top-of-the-line, as long as there's limited support for the personal needs of graduate students, studying in the province will remain a less-than-ideal option.

"We should be making sure that those opportunities are as desirable as other career opportunities in Alberta—and right now, they're not," Charchun said.

"You have to make a lot of sacrifices to be a graduate student, and you have to really want to learn."

However, Horner stressed that the government is beginning to look at making students' quality of life an important part of the equation.

"Rather than just compete with the rest of the world on a dollar basis, which isn't always the end-all," he said, "we recognize as a government that grad students are going to play a key role in the diversification of our economy."

NINT key to province's future—Horner

NINT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Once students realize [that] their professor is passionate [about] what he or she is talking about, they're that much more passionate about the material."

Doug Horner, provincial Minister for Advanced Education and Technology, said that in the case of nanotechnology, the large potential for Alberta's economic success in the field is a large factor in funding. However, he added that this also means an emphasis on education.

"It's not research at the expense of instruction when you consider that graduate students are going to be involved heavily in the research side of this, and researchers are your future instructors."

Last May, the Alberta government pledged \$130 million over five years to nanotechnology with the goal of getting a \$20-billion share to the world nanotechnology market by 2020. Additionally, the federal government renewed its funding of NINT's core research and operations last December, committing \$36 million over the next



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

A LITTLE FUNDING NINT helps create a balance between teaching and research.

three years.

"You have to strike a balance" between research and teaching, Horner said. "No question about that.

"[But] it makes a lot of sense for Alberta to be looking toward what it could mean for our economy if nanotechnology is developed here."

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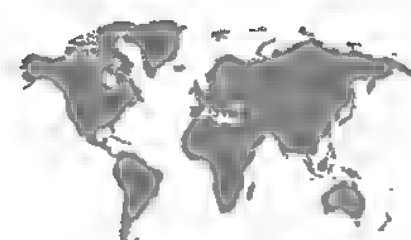
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Scientists may have discovered new 'super-solid' state of matter

CATHERINE SCOTT
News Staff

In today's super-sized world of SUVs and big-screen TVs, it's unusual for the microscopic branch of physics to garner a lot of attention. Recently, however, Dr John Beamish, professor of physics and chair of the department, along with PhD student James Day, have been experimenting with helium and testing its properties—and their results have fuelled the debate over existence of a “super-solid” state of matter.

Their latest experiment tested the shear modulus of helium, and their results converged with those of another research team from Penn State University in the US, who conducted oscillation experiments led by Dr Moses Chan in 2004.

The shear modulus of helium, in layman's terms, refers to the rigidity of helium when pressure is applied to it and its ability to bounce back to its original shape once free of pressure. The researchers' answers gave them unusual results that don't necessarily reject or confirm Chan's hypothesis that helium exists in a super-solid state, but the study's findings do provide more information.

“What we're trying to do is get enough information so that if [Chan's] interpretation of super-[solidity] is not right, there's another clue,” Beamish said.

He added that about five other groups around the world have done the same experiment that Chan did in 2004, and that they've all achieved the same results. There's no debate as to whether or not the results are true; it's the interpretation of the results that is controversial. However, Beamish and Day weren't interested in replicating Chan's experiment. They had tried a few experiments prior to this, but their latest is noteworthy primarily because it's the first that has shown



STU TREBELCO

NOT THAT DELUSIONAL Beamish and Day's findings may prove to be super-solid.

results different from the those originally discovered by Chan.

“Instead of proving one way or another what other experiments were doing, we're looking for a convergence because that's the only way the scientific community as a whole will believe that what we have is a super-solid,” Day said.

Chan's experiment found that solid helium, when oscillated, behaves like water. What Beamish and Day have found is that at 0.2 degrees above absolute zero, helium becomes stiffer at a relatively alarming rate. Though the two experiments were testing and measuring different properties, there are notable similarities between them.

“We're making a different measurement, but everything—the temperature, the frequency, how hard you stress things—looks the same, except you're measuring different properties. It's just how they connect that's not obvious,” Beamish said.

According to Day, the purpose of fundamental science is application-

driven; the purpose is to make things better and faster. Beamish and Day say that theirs is the pursuit of knowledge because they're interested in the unforeseen directions of their experiments. Day noted that sometimes research in one field of study could have an impact on research and discovery in another field of study, or it could result in new technology.

“When you just follow these unanswered questions, you never know where they're going to lead you. It's uncharted territory,” Day said.

Besides the noble pursuit of knowledge, there are other incredible rewards to reap from this kind of research. Day observed that because other research and discoveries about helium in this domain have resulted in Nobel prizes, it gives us an idea of how influential and powerful this domain of research can be.

“If it turns out that [people] are right about [helium] also existing in super-solid state, without a doubt, it will result in a Nobel Prize,” Day said.

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK



DR. CARMEN ROPCHAN

ENGINEERING PHYSICS 131

I think that Dr. Ropchan is an amazing professor. She goes out of her way to integrate real world examples into the curriculum. She also works during weekends by holding seminars and information sessions. One example of her willingness to donate her time to students is when WebCT was down before our midterm exam, she emailed each student in her class the review notes (typing in each email address by hand) from her **home email client...** not using the ‘three click’ ualberta client. This to me shows that she takes pride in her students performing to the best of their ability and that is why I am nominating Dr. Ropchan for the professor of the week.

Do you have a professor that's unique and shows their value of undergraduate teaching? Nominate them! Email avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

Nominations can also be picked up and submitted at any Faculty Association or InfoLink desk, or the SU executive offices front desk.



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Instructor shortage on the way

Study suggests that as baby boomers begin to retire, universities need to advertise PhD programs and build the job appeal of academia to fill the void

RYAN PRICE
The *Charlatan* (Carleton University)

OTTAWA (CUP)—The looming departure of baby boomers from the workforce could pose problems when it comes to replacing thousands of retiring professors.

A study released by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) last November estimates that nearly 21 000 Canadian faculty members will retire or leave the profession in the next decade.

However, faculty represent only a portion of nearly 36 000 jobs that will open in the postsecondary education sector by 2016 due to projected growth in student populations, competition from more institutions, and retirement.

Feridun Hamdullahpur, Carleton University's interim provost and Vice-President (Academic), said that even if the study's figures are only partially true, it will still be a challenge for Canada's universities and colleges to fill the vacant positions.

"We have to start really attracting students [and] encouraging them to go into PhD programs," he said. Otherwise there simply won't be enough new professors.

"We have to make our universities here more attractive [and] academically stronger in order to attract people from other countries wanting to come here and work."

Though mandatory retirement was abolished in Ontario in December 2006, it's still unclear whether baby boomers will retire at age 65 or whether the love of the job will keep them in the classroom. The AUCC's

study warns that the elimination of mandatory retirement won't lessen the need for hiring new faculty in the long run.

Mark Langer, director of external relations for the Carleton University Academic Staff Association and Vice-President of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, said that universities need more teachers to address the inequities of the student-to-faculty ratio.

"I'm guessing there are people who would love to do a PhD, but unless they get assistance from the university, it just isn't possible financially."

ANNE DESTECHER
ART HISTORY PHD CANDIDATE

Langer also said that bidding wars for new teachers can push up salaries, making it hard for some universities to compete.

"It's very important that Carleton keeps up its research profile, and we can't do that if people are spending more time in the classroom compared to faculty at comparative universities," he explained.

According to Langer, the Ontario government is now directly targeting graduate studies with funds—as opposed to subsidies through regular postsecondary funds. The government is also mandating increased

enrolment targets for graduate studies. But not everyone thinks this is a great solution.

"This puts downward pressure on the quality of the graduate students that [universities] are admitting," Langer explained. "If you have to admit more, there's a great temptation to lower your standard of admission."

Carleton's Dean of Graduate Studies, John Shepherd, has been resisting such change, and is instead addressing the problem by putting more effort into recruitment—but that might be only half the solution.

Anne DeStecher, a second-year Art History PhD student, said those who pursue graduate studies should already have some idea of their desired career path.

"It's such demanding work that you'd have to already be really focused that this is what you want to do," she said.

Financial problems are also a large deterrent.

"I'm guessing there are people who would love to do a PhD, but unless they get assistance from the university, it just isn't possible financially," she said.

Elena Aminkova, a PhD student in computer science, stressed that while financial packages would help a lot, she stressed that it can still be difficult to find a teaching position after graduating with a PhD.

"A lot of my colleagues [have] found many troubles in getting the chance to teach at either college or university [here in Canada]," Aminkova said. "Most of them are international and many of them have their own position in their home country."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: RYAN HEISE

PRE-DRINKING IN CYBERSPACE Bar-goers in Ontario can now check the capacity of clubs online before heading out.

Students create online solution to bar lines

GILLIAN FARBER
The *Cord Weekly*
(Wilfrid Laurier University)

WATERLOO (CUP)—Savvy night-clubbers in several Ontario university towns have a new online tool to help beat the long—and often cold—lineup.

With just the click of a mouse and 21 clicks of the keyboard, people can access www.BeatTheBarLine.com to get a first-hand look at the lineups outside the bar and even the crowded (or not-so-crowded) dance floor—all from the comfort of their own homes.

The website displays featured venues, their hours of operation, and a live webcam view of the lines inside and outside the club. The site also provides phone numbers for taxis in each area.

Andrew Dick, the creator of the website, said that he and a friend from the University of Western Ontario, Peter Whitby, came up with the idea and are now starting to reap some profits from the venture. Even bar owners are starting to offer positive feedback on the service.

"The cameras are very beneficial for us because having an extra set of eyes

on the bar can deter criminal behaviour and dishonesty with police," said Brent Campbell, owner of Vault Lounge in Waterloo.

Dick now hopes to expand the site to cover more of Ontario, as well as to encourage participation with other owners, including those in the restaurant industry.

After surveying random students on the Wilfrid Laurier University campus about the website, the majority of responses were positive. Some students have even begun using the site as a ritual before they hit the clubs.

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ETS the solution to cab problems

TRANSIT SAFETY IN EDMONTON HAS BEEN A HOT topic among commuters lately, and now city cab drivers are sounding off on the matter.

They have good reason to be afraid, as Edmonton isn't lacking in instances of violence towards cabbies. When a city cab driver had his throat slashed by a 14-year-old passenger last month, the debate about driver safety was sparked once again.

Now that Edmonton taxi companies have come forth once again this week to oppose the push for more cab licenses, the question of how drivers will be protected has been raised. Some cab drivers have pointed out that the difficulty of getting a cab during peak evening and weekend hours isn't due to a cab shortage, but to a deficit of drivers who are willing to service the more questionable clientele commonly found on Whyte Avenue during the weekends. Ideas ranging from security shields to late-night premiums to evening barflies have been suggested, but none of these seem to recognize the root of many violent incidents.

Rowdy and intoxicated riders provoked by fare disputes aren't going to be pacified by the sudden discovery that last week's \$20 cab ride now costs extra. And since violent passengers are certainly in the minority, it doesn't make sense to apply a blanket "premium" fee to all late-night riders simply to lure more drivers into a market that they're currently avoiding for safety concerns.

Considering Edmonton's cab companies have already demonstrated their unwillingness to foot the bill on security shields, it's not likely that they'll be shelling out any extra cash in order to hook more drivers. It would seem that the owners and drivers have reached a stalemate, leaving some riders stranded, but there's another party that could take advantage of this standstill: the Edmonton Transit System.

It's no secret that ETS currently has less-than-stellar late-night service: with most routes ending after evening peak hours and some major routes disappearing before many bars close (including the LRT), it can be difficult to guarantee a safe ride home at night. This, combined with staggered cab service, is likely to lead to a number of problems—impaired driving charges in Edmonton have already spiked by 25 per cent in the past year., for example City Council has said that they won't subsidize cab companies' expenses, since they're privately owned companies; however, this excuse simply doesn't fly when it comes to their own transit service. There's enough of a demand to increase late-night service in the city, if not in a single bound, then at the very least incrementally.

It's a shame that the city has taken a back seat in the ongoing debate over passenger and driver safety in transit, and the small steps they've taken so far simply haven't made enough of an impact. As a public service, Edmonton Transit should be taking a much more active role in, as the city ad campaign itself suggests, curbing the violence.

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

Address students too

LAST WEEK, WE PUBLISHED A GUIDE TO SOME OF the marquee events during the University's centennial celebrations. One of those events was the President's Address, of which we said, "if you can find a spot, it'll probably be worth catching."

Of course, finding a spot is going to be harder than anticipated, as the event is, in fact, invite only. While I understand that Convocation Hall is a tiny space to hold this sort of event—especially with all the sponsors and alumni that will want to come—the fact that they aren't allowing at-large students to attend is a joke.

After all, cutting the students out of this sort of event by effectively saying "they can watch it later via webcast" is ignoring the fact that universities exist to provide education to those very same students. I'm not saying the ceremony should be packed with Listerites—just that there should be a small, designated section where students who wish to attend can do so, either through an open RSVP or a first-come, first-serve basis.

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor



Steve Dollansky makes the most of Council's recent seat reduction

LAUREN ALSTON

LETTERS

Nicol Council's equivalent of angry muppet hecklers

As well as taking some cheap shots at me from the peanut gallery, SU Business councillor Scott Nicol complained in his letter in Tuesday's edition that the *Gateway* should spend more time covering student council debates (re: "Cybersquatting, unlike Council, isn't newsworthy," 15 January).

Well it looks like Nicol should take a lesson or two from Arts councillor Caitlin Schulz, whose debate over the size and efficiency of Student Council made the front cover, or Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel, whose fight for more affordable textbooks also ended up on the front page of Tuesday's *Gateway*.

Nicol, instead of spending your SU-paid time on Council protesting whether or not the SU should pay to feed you at meetings, debate something that students care about, and you'll get the attention you yearn for.

DAVE COURNOYER
Arts IV

Premier's seeming lack of foresight unsettling

I'd like to spell something out for councillor Scott Nicol, as I think it's

important to understand the symbolism behind the conflict between Ed Stelmach and Dave Cournoyer.

On the contrary, Scott, Ed Stelmach suing a university student in this case is quite newsworthy. The inability of Premier Stelmach to register edstelmach.ca beforehand is representative of his (and, I would argue, the Tory government's) inability to think ahead. Given that Mr Stelmach represents and is supposedly looking out for the best interests of Albertans, I grow concerned when he doesn't take the opportunity to think preemptively on such a matter.

What kind of confidence could I have in him dealing with other issues that require foresight, such as nuclear power, the tar sands disaster, health care, and postsecondary education? Not much, I can tell you. As a side note, it's also humorous that the economic system that his government supports (that is, everything is up for sale) let him down in such a manner.

DALLAS THOMPSON
Education IV

Stelmach's got money for everything but website

So, Premier Stelmach, his wife, and an entourage of who knows how many are flying to Washington, DC, at a cost of thousands of dollars to Alberta taxpayers. Upon arrival, they will wine and dine who knows

how many similar taxpayer-funded trough-feeders. What enrages me is that our problems aren't in Washington, DC. The problems are here.

So what is this excuse for a government doing sucking up to American politicians at this time? Do they think the US might not want to continue to buy our oil in the future? Where else do they think they'll get it from if present sources dry up, or if their Middle East "allies" were to cut off oil shipments to America, should that ever happen?

This trip is just another example of an Alberta taxpayer-funded winter getaway to hobnob with some of DC's political elite, and more importantly, to give the appearance that Stelmach is doing something of substance before the predicted March election. Nothing, absolutely nothing, will result from this expensive excursion other than Steady Eddie and company viewing some of Washington's famous buildings from the inside of a chauffeured limousine and drinking expensive imported wine while dining on foie gras, imported Alberta beef, and Maine lobster, all at our expense.

This is what Albertans get, and will continue to get, by voting for a one-party elected dictatorship. And it serves them bloody well right.

When will Alberta's electorate wake up and boot this 36-year-old government out of office? Answer: "When hell freezes over,"

or maybe when the cost of gas becomes so expensive their pick-up trucks will have to be put up on blocks.

J F HOLOWCHAK
Education Alumnus

An open letter from Canadian Blood Services

Recently, you may have heard about Canadian Blood Services' (CBS) policy regarding the deferral of men who have had sex with other men (MSM) even once since 1977 being debated in the media and at your University (re: "Students want gay-blood ban lifted," 15 January). CBS understands that this is a complex and sensitive issue, and we would like to provide you with some information to better understand this safety policy.

Why do we have the MSM deferral policy if we test all donated blood? Because our state-of-the-art test for HIV has a limitation. In the early stages of infection, known as the "window period," the virus is undetectable. What this means is that without a screening process, there is the potential for an infected unit to get through the system and be transfused into a patient. And recently released reports from the Public Health Agency of Canada indicate that MSM continues to account for the highest rate of HIV infection.

PLEASE SEE **LETTERS** • PAGE 9

I'm a failure with a fancy degree



CONAL
PIERSE

“Now, after several years of rolling my eyes at friends who chose to pursue a trade over further education, I have found that it was me who, for the most part, wasted my time. While they earned money and learned a skill, I sat at a desk poring over a book for little benefit and even less respect.”

Over the semester break, I did something that I have dreaded doing since I first came to the University—I applied for graduation. Now, barring an unforeseen epic failure on my part, and whether I like it or not, at the end of this term I will walk out of here a graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree—and that fucking terrifies me.

I’ve never really known quite what to do with my life, so when I graduated from high school, University was just the thing I had to do to put off growing up for a few more years. I figured that within the walls of this institution, I’d somehow “find” myself and discover that elusive calling, but all I’ve managed to do is become more bitter and jaded—and likely dramatically decrease my life expectancy through caffeine and alcohol abuse.

I chose Science over Arts because I had been raised to believe that an arts degree was a waste of time—a useless scrap of paper that wouldn’t get me anywhere other than being the burger flipper at McDonalds who also happened to have an appreciation of Chaucer. But I’ve since come to the unfortunate discovery that my degree ultimately leads to the same

place—only now, I have an appreciation for the many bacteria crawling around beside said grill.

I quickly discovered in my first year that university life was nothing like I had been told it would be. My classes weren’t about the pursuit of knowledge, but rather the grind for grades. The majority of my classmates were med hopefuls, each youthful face a future doctor—many of whom would step on your throat to get where they wanted to be—and I quickly came to realize that it didn’t matter if you could recall the citric acid cycle verbatim months later, but only that you knew it at the time of the exam. You cram as much shit as possible into your brain, and then once the course was finished, you squeeze it all out like a wet sponge and started all over again. So now, despite being university-educated, I truthfully only have as much knowledge as my last batch of courses contained—save for random scraps of knowledge like why everybody has nipples and the effects of LSD on the brain.

And so it has gone for my postsecondary career, barely scraping by on the promise of better things out the other side only to find that a degree

gets me nowhere. And now that my nails are all cracked and worn down, I’ve got to go scrape out a living in the real world, no longer able to hide behind the label of “student.” Sure I could always go into graduate studies, but you can only hide your true motivation from yourself for so long.

Now, after several years of rolling my eyes at friends who chose to pursue a trade over further education, I have found that it was me who, for the most part, wasted my time. While they earned money and learned a skill, I sat at a desk poring over a book for little benefit and even less respect.

This isn’t to say that I regret going to university—I had some great memories here and have managed to fulfill one of the unfortunate stereotypes of my Irish heritage. I do, however, regret that I was so naïve about what I would my degree would do for me and that I didn’t have the guts to pursue the field of arts instead of lying to myself and sleeping through biochemistry. But who knows? Maybe, when I get that slip of paper, if I click my heels twice, everything will magically change, and I’ll finally become a productive member of society based on my meager knowledge of genetics.

Golf is a good piece of real estate wasted



BRIAN
GOULD

full-size golf courses near downtown. As private courses, the Royal Mayfair and Highlands aren’t exactly public spaces, and with the cost of clubs and fees, public courses like Victoria and Riverside aren’t much better. By keeping out the vast majority of Edmontonians, golf courses aren’t just a vegetative monoculture—they’re a human one as well.

By keeping out the vast majority of Edmontonians, golf courses aren’t just a vegetative monoculture, they’re a human one as well.

With growing environmental consciousness and acceptance of redevelopment in Edmonton, it’s time to take a serious look at our river valley and make sure we’re making the best use of it. I’m not advocating that we completely give up on the concept of the river valley as a recreational area; however, it’s time to reassess what that means, and it certainly shouldn’t mean more golf courses.

Event and activity parks are critical to vibrant cities (picture New York without Central Park), yet Edmonton only really has Hawrelak Park, and the majority of suitable land for such parks is currently going to waste. “Recreation” in Edmonton seems to include freeway-style interchanges and roads along the riverbank, eyesores only topped by the “historic” Epcor plant in Rosedale. This city needs its own version of Vancouver’s Granville Island or Winnipeg’s the Forks, and Rosedale is the ideal site (barring the odd flood, of course).

Development is understandably sparse as a matter of city policy. Stopping new development makes sense, but leaving the existing developed area as empty lots, houses, and overbuilt roads doesn’t, since the land isn’t going to magically turn back into pristine river valley. Well designed densification would be an improvement, and the City could trade building permits for parkland.

The worst offenders are the four

Environmentally damaging and artificial, golf just isn’t a good match for the natural river valley. Worse yet, courses are a horrible waste of land for the heart of the city, and force true public spaces out (or in the case of Louise McKinney Park, perched up uselessly on a steep hill). The mismatch in density with the busy downtown core is staggering, as even with a foursome on each hole, each golfer has nearly two acres to himself. Sprawling Mill Woods looks incredibly dense by comparison—36 times more dense, if you want to get technical.

Admittedly, the Mayfair did recently host a major event. This year’s LPGA tour stop attracted 65 000 in one week; however, crowds of this magnitude are incredibly rare and are no more diverse than what’s seen the rest of the year. Yes, these courses are regularly enjoyed by thousands of people, but last time I checked, there were more people in the city than just a few thousand.

Hawrelak, on the other hand, annually hosts 350 000 people for the three-day Heritage Festival alone—in two-thirds the space, no less—along with various other music, arts, and sports festivals. Ten years of triathlons have called Hawrelak home. And though Bright Nights could only be considered a festival in Edmonton, that’s held there too, along with countless other events that serve to bring the community together. So while Mayfair may have history, Hawrelak has character and heart.

Yes, I’m sure that the views from these courses are very pretty, but other uses could improve the view and open it to more people at all hours in all seasons. Mayfair would make a spectacular extension of Hawrelak Park, parts of Victoria would be great for development with a funicular to Jasper Avenue, and Kinsmen Pitch and Putt provides a phenomenal opportunity to extend Garneau. I’m not saying that we should convert all of these immediately or all at once, but in the future, we’re going to need to start thinking that way.

By this point, I’m sure all the golfers are saying that I’m just anti-golf—this isn’t completely unfair, as working early mornings raking sand traps tends to do that to you. However, I do go mini-golfing reasonably often; I’ve also golfed Kinsmen Pitch and Putt and have enjoyed them both. I’m also sure that the full game wouldn’t be that bad to play either. Conversely, though I can’t stand watching baseball, I’m not saying we should get rid of Telus Field. That’s because this isn’t about the game, but rather its impact on a city. I’m sure horseback polo, skeet shooting, and fox hunting are great if you’re into that kind of thing, but none of those things belong in the river valley.

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Archie dialogue difficult to digest

The gang's exaggerated speech patterns have me saying Gadzooks!



MIKAEL
RAHEEM

I was reading through some of my favourite tomes of high literature—namely, Archie comics—and I noticed a very disturbing reoccurrence: there isn't a single line spoken in any of these colourful volumes that doesn't end in either an exclamation mark or a question mark. If you don't believe me, go dig out your stash and take a gander at the horrendous grammar that runs rampant throughout.

I don't know whether it was simply that the overly formulaic writers just couldn't stand the thought of a lonely period surviving without a line above it or whether they just realized that nothing in these books could ever actually occur so they tried to mask the blatant warping of reality by having the characters bark out all their thoughts at maximum volume.

Either way, I find this very disconcerting—especially when I consider how much time I spent in my basement reading and rereading Archie comics hoping that some day I too could have the sweet, innocent love of two clearly not high-school-aged women. Every character is either incredibly excited or simply has a speech disorder that forces them to exclaim everything at the top of their lungs. This makes sense for certain events—such as yet another hilarious instance of mismatched dates or an overabundance of hamburgers eaten—but when the pals and gals in the comics are just whispering to each other, it's entirely unnecessary. Somehow, I doubt that Reggie would be bellowing out his dastardly plans to extinguish Archie's dates or that Dilton would be roaring at the top of his lungs about his strange

boy-lust for random women who are clearly out of his league.

Yet another shocking realization was had when I noticed that in every other story, the text is bolded at seemingly random intervals. Again, I can't help but question the mental stability of "the gang" when I see things like this. It could very well be that every single jolly character is a victim of that sneaky Tourette syndrome, and this whole enterprise of genuinely heartstring-tugging and uproariously comical storytelling is but a sick experiment with a group of mental patients segregated in a community ominously named "Riverdale."

Every character is either incredibly excited or simply has a speech disorder that forces them to exclaim everything at the top of their lungs.

Naturally, I guffawed for about five minutes at the idea when it first occurred to me, but as I reread the tale of Chuck and Archie's thwarting of a time-travelling feline criminal, the notion of a society of severely delusional and over-medicated adults didn't seem so unrealistic.

After hours of meticulous and detailed research, I came to the conclusion that the tomes of these so-called fictitious teenagers, callously named "comic books," are actually a retelling of the twisted lives of a dark community of the mentally deranged.

Naturally, I embarked on a journey to discover these "teens" and rid them of their captives, but when I found out that Riverdale could be any of at least 14 different cities scattered all around the US, I officially marked the case closed due to extreme laziness.



MIKE OTTO

EGAD!! If everybody talked as loud as the Riverdale crowd, there'd be no such thing as a quiet room.

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Cutting Council seats will only serve to silence student voices



JON
MASTEL

The Students' Union Executive is planning on decreasing the number of councillors in what they're calling "a move to make it more efficient." This has to be the biggest crock I have ever heard. The number of councillors doesn't have any bearing on their efficiency or lack thereof—it's the mentality of those governing that makes the difference.

Let's look at the reasoning behind this ill-conceived plan: Steven Dollansky says the cut will give the councillors who are currently unable to speak the opportunity to be heard—an interesting notion given how during the discussion, debate was forced to close, effectively silencing all opposition.

What Mr Dollansky must have meant when attempting to build support for this bill is that only councillors who toe the Executive line will be able to speak. I also find it equally ironic that SU President Michael Janz and VP Dollansky—or Janzlansky as I will henceforth refer to them—kept on interrupting opposing councillors when they tried to state their opinion. These two execs, who should be acting as behavioral models to the other council members, were very effective in bullying the opposition into submission.

The duo also provided a good example as to why cutting seats would improve efficiency. If there were fewer councillors, then there would be fewer people for these two to intimidate, hence the meetings would go faster.

"The only member of the Executive that had the foresight to see that this was a bad plan and to voice an objection was VP Academic Bobby Samuel. This Bear Scat would-be-slayer was now the champion of democracy for Council—though his role appears to be quite the lonely one."

The actions of Janzlansky were deplorable at best, and definitely weren't becoming of an elected officer of the SU. I also seem to recall that Council's trying to foster more interest from the student body. With that goal in mind, it makes more sense to increase the size of Council so that more students will get involved—that way, more students can be reached on the personal level, since their friends and classmates are more likely to be on Council.

Financial reasons were also given, as less councillors means less people to pay. Well, if it's believed that there are a few councillors whose wage could be better spent on other items, couldn't we also consider putting the VP (Student Life) role on the chopping block?

It has been admitted by the current VPSL, Chris Le, that all he does outside of Week of Welcome and Antifreeze is make paperclip animals. Even at that, he has under him a number of staff that would do the majority of the actual work; all he has to do is make sure that they're doing their jobs.

I recall Janz saying that we should take a lesson from the book of Lenin when considering this change. My Russian history may not be as polished as that of comrade Janz, but I'm fairly certain that Lenin's movement resulted in death of many Russians—and this was just within his lifetime, to say nothing of those who came after him. Is Janz trying to tell us that he wants to control every minute detail of the SU? Could he be setting

things up for a Stalin-like student to take over after him, or is this simply the first step in vesting all the power of Council and the Executive in the President?

Centuries ago, Aristotle ranked the various governmental forms. Out of those which were attainable, democracy was the best (and, incidentally, the third-worst) because the many ruled in favour of the many. Second on the list is oligarchy, which sees the few ruling for the benefit of the few—and with the proposed cuts, this is exactly where we are headed. With 30 000 students on campus and currently 42 councillors, there is a little more than 0.1 per cent of students on Council. If Bill 7 passes and Council size is decreased, fewer students will be represented and even fewer will benefit.

Perhaps the most bizarre twist of events came when the vote was held on the first reading. The only member of the Executive that had the foresight to see that this was a bad plan and to voice an objection was VP (Academic) Bobby Samuel. This Bear Scat would-be slayer was now the champion of democracy for Council—though his role appears to be quite the lonely one.

Councillors need to wake up and smell the stupidity. These changes won't make Council stronger; they will make the Executive stronger. Janzlansky needs to be told that the power of the SU lies in students, not the Exec, and that trying to change this will have an extremely negative effect on the SU as a whole.

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The MSM policy, as with most of our policies, renders anyone whose blood could pose an increased risk to patients ineligible to donate—regardless of their sexual orientation. In fact, there are many well intended individuals who are ineligible to donate blood for many different reasons—such as persons who have lived in the United Kingdom during a specified time frame, or those who were born or lived in Africa since 1977, or individuals with a history of malaria to name a few. No matter what action we take or what policy is in place, it is with the safety of patients as the overriding principle.

Having said this, Canadian Blood Services continually reviews its policies to ensure they remain in the best interest of patients. As a result of a recent review of this policy, we have begun an active research agenda to inform our decision-making on this issue. Is there a better way to screen for risk of HIV? It's quite possible that there is, but we won't know that until we complete the research. As we conduct this research, we will continue to work with groups such as the Canadian Federation of Students and Egale Canada, as well as keeping the public informed on our progress. Ultimately, it's not up to us to make a final decision, as that responsibility lies with our regulator, Health Canada.

In closing, I would like to address the issue of banning or interfering with campus clinics. Maintaining an adequate supply is an ongoing challenge for us

because, on average, every minute of every day someone in Canada needs blood or blood products. Students and faculty are among some of our most dedicated donors and in fact, campus clinics contribute approximately 40 000 units of blood that help a potential 120 000 patients every year. No matter what your point of view is regarding the MSM policy, while we undertake the research to inform our decision-making on this issue, please remember that patients rely on your support to save and improve their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider patient needs in making your decision to be a blood donor.

IAN MUMFORD
Chief Operating Officer, CBS

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

If you insist on delivering your letter by hand, then you must be prepared to engage in an intricate game of hide-and-seek with me before I will run it.

THE BURLAP SACK

It's halfway through January, and if you frequent the University's Health and Wellness Centre, you've realized that it's packed to capacity with people trying their damndest to keep their New Year's resolutions to get in shape. While the incessant busyness can be frustrating for those of us that frequent the gym year-round, I respect these people for budgeting the time to stay healthy. However, what this busy time of year at the gym points out is how far the University has lagged behind in offering students respectable fitness facilities. Sure there's the track in the Butterdome and a lot of Campus Rec programs, but the size of the fitness centre can't even come close to accommodating the population of students and staff on campus that want to exercise.

So into the sack with the University. I'll work the heavy bag while I wait an hour for a damn treadmill.

RYAN HEISE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

HERE AT THE GATEWAY, WE DON'T JUDGE YOU FOR YOUR LEVEL OF HAIR (LACK THEREOF) BECAUSE, AS SCIENTISTS HAVE RECENTLY DISCOVERED, EVEN MONKEYS GO BALD.



GATEWAY OPINION
CONFIDENT ENOUGH NOT TO WEAR HATS SINCE 1970

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

Alan Borovoy
General Counsel
Canadian Civil Liberties Association

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